Hafa Adai!

Senate committee cuts admin's $175M revenue estimate by $9M. PAGE 2
20 students complete NMC's nursing assistant training program. PAGE 7

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPA finds gaps in govt's cash intake

Norita

» OPA audit indicates lack of accountability, oversight of daily collections
» Norita says corrective actions being taken

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has found that 16 Department of Finance-sanctioned collection points on Saipan lack standard operating procedures to ensure that daily collections are adequately accounted for, and this has resulted in untimely reconciliation and remittance of daily collections at the Treasury, and not properly secured daily collections and Manual Official Cash Receipts at five collection points.

See OPA on Page 1

Enriquez officially begins term as UOG president

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
53

The University of Guam Board of Regents and Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez last week executed the contract officially appointing her as the 12th president of UOG.

Enriquez assumed her new role as president effective Aug. 6, following a search process that began with 30 U.S. and international applicants and was later whittled down to three finalists. She

See ENRIQUEZ on Page 4

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, 12th president of the University of Guam, is seen in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building in Mangilao on August 3, 2023.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Department of Public Safety police officer Raymond L. Saralu is escorted through the halls of the CNMI Superior Court for a bail hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho yesterday morning.

Investigation uncovers possible tampering in Kagman shooting

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The compiled report on the Kagman shooting incident involving two minors and a service-issued firearm has provided more details into the incident that happened back in May and has uncovered possible tampering of evidence.

DPS officer Raymond Lizama Saralu, whose service-firearm is believed to have been the gun used in the Kagman shooting, appeared

See SHOOTING on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance promotes its new plastic recycling campaign.
PAGE 11

NATION
Two groups are asking a federal court to block a plan to cancel $39 billion in student loans.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
Elon Musk says his potential in-person fight with Mark Zuckerberg would be streamed on X.
PAGE 15

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Local

U.S. COAST GUARD

FACES OF FORCES MICRONESIA

Petty Officer 1st Class Ikaika Ruiz of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) stands with a tuna he caught from the shore of one of the northern islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Originally from Hawaii, Ruiz is an engineer aboard the ship specializing as an electrician.

Senate committee cuts admin's $175M revenue estimate by $9M

» **House committee talking with counsel about constitutionality of Senate actually increasing the budget ceiling**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee has decreased by $9 million the administration's projected $175 million revenue in fiscal year 2024.

On the other hand, House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that they are already finalizing their budget version, as he expects going into a conference committee with the Senate.

In response to Saipan Tribune's inquiry yesterday, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Fiscal Affairs Committee, underscored the need to reduce the anticipated revenue, noting that the administration projected a tax increase that isn't law.

Manglona was referring to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' proposed budget, which includes a proposal to increase the Business Gross Revenue Tax in the second quarter of the fiscal year for an additional estimated revenue of $9.1 million.

When asked about concerns by some representatives about the constitutionality of the Fiscal Affairs' amendment of the concurrent resolution, Manglona said he believes some House members think that what his committee did was unconstitutional because they increased the bottom line number in the proposed budget.

"But our interpretation is that the constitution applies to the overall budgetary resources," the senator said.

He said their next step in the budget process is just finish up with Rota and Tinian then wait for the House to see if they will be going into a conference committee—which typically happens when the Senate and House have differing budget versions.

Yumul said in an interview yesterday that, with the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's action, they actually increased the budget ceiling to $118,823,585.

"That's where we're having counsels see if they overreach. It's up for discussion right now," Yumul said.

He said as their counsel stated, they might have a different opinion with the Senate so they left it at that as they cannot dwell on what they've done.

"We'll just move forward with our version and hopefully, what we've done maybe they would not consider amending the concurrent resolution," Yumul said.

He said with the projected revenues, they didn't touch anything because there's some anticipated revenue coming in from outside source, which the administration has shared with them that would address the shortage.

Yumul said the administration asked that they remain within what was submitted to them and then they would address the shortfall in the coming months.

"There's some grants specifically to address personnel that's coming in," he said.

Yumul said with the $9 million that was submitted by the administration, they anticipated increasing the Business Gross Revenue Tax, excise tax, and a lot of taxes that were put on the table.

He said, however, most House members didn't agree with taxing people right now, when things are getting harder. "So that's why we stayed away and veered off and we are still working with the construction tax. And that's what everybody's talking about," Yumul said.

Yumul said they are optimistic that the $9 million will not be a $9 million shortage. "I think it would be lower than that. But just like with any fiscal year, whatever we're anticipating, it's always a shortfall," he said.

Yumul said they're just working on the administration's submittal as the provisions of the draft budget bill were all done last week.

Hafa Adai!
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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CHCC dismissed from medical malpractice suit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has dismissed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. from a medical malpractice lawsuit filed by a woman who was allegedly misdiagnosed for weeks, resulting in her undergoing emergency surgery.

Bernadita T. Palacios filed the complaint in Superior Court against the CHCC and Marianas Medical Center last month for allegedly failing to diagnose her symptoms of appendicitis, which later resulted in complications that warranted surgery.

However, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan has since granted the stipulation filed by Palacios and CHCC requesting that the court dismiss CHCC from the lawsuit without prejudice. This leaves MMC as the only defendant in this case.

Dismissal without prejudice means the charges against CHCC cannot be refiled.

Palacios is now only suing MMC for negligence, medical malpractice, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

According to Palacios in court documents, she went to CHCC on March 29, 2021, to seek medical care for the abdominal pain she had been experiencing.

Palacios' lawyer, Anthony Aguon, argues that the abdominal pain presented a clear sign of appendicitis, but despite his client's symptoms, CHCC did not perform any tests to determine whether she did suffer from appendicitis.

"Instead, CHCC prescribed methocarbamol, a muscle relaxant, and recommended Tylenol, a pain reliever, and told her to see her personal care doctor in 1-2 weeks," said Aguon.

On March 30, 2021, Palacios went to Marianas Medical Center seeking medical care for the same concern, abdominal pain and loose stool.

"The abdominal pain presented a clear sign of appendicitis. However, despite Palacios' expressed symptoms, MMC did not perform a test to determine whether she did suffer from ap-

See CHCC on Page 4

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC offices closed on Aug. 10 and 11

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities on Thursday, Aug. 10, and Friday, Aug. 11, 2023.

To maximize employee participation, NMC offices will be closed on these days. The college will resume normal business hours on Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

Those seeking help for registering for the fall 2023 semester can email oar@marianas.edu. For all other matters, email nmc@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

4.4-magnitude quake in Rota region

At 12:01am on Aug. 7 2023, a report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at 14.028°N 144.832°E in the Rota region. There were no reports of injuries or damages and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

‘Contraband bill is crucial to safeguarding DOC’

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres says he fully supports the new contraband bill that Gov. Arnold I. Palacios recently signed into law, saying it is crucial to safeguarding the safety, security, and integrity of the CNMI’s lone prison.

Formerly known as House Bill 23-17, the prison contraband legislation, now enacted into Public Law 23-07, will provide the Department of Corrections a more enforceable mandate that will deter inmates, detainees, correctional officers, contractors, volunteers, and the general public from possessing contraband in any of the CNMI’s correctional facilities.

“A conviction for the promotion of major contraband shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of not more than four years, a fine of not more than $1,500, or both, while a conviction for the promotion of minor contraband shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of not more than one year, a fine of not more than $1,000, or both,” Public Law 23-07 states.

In a statement to the press, Torres said the legislation serves as a crucial measure in safeguarding the correctional institution and empowers DOC with the necessary authority and resources to combat the issue of contrabands head-on.

“I would like to reaffirm my commitment to the enforcement of the recently passed contraband bill. We are deeply committed to its effective implementation. We understand the immense challenges posed by contraband within our facility and the detrimental impact it can have on the rehabilitation and well-being of our inmates, as well as the safety of our staff and inmates,” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Legislature presented with Guam-CNMI ESGR Committee certificate

FERDIE DE AL TORRE

U.S. Army Lt. Col. (ret.) Renie A. Llaneta, Guam-CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state chair, in blue shirt in front, poses with other committee officials and lawmakers during their presentation yesterday in the House chamber a certificate of appreciation to honor the House of Representatives and Senate for all the work that they have done to support the ESGR in the Commonwealth.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam-CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee presented yesterday a certificate of appreciation that honors the House of Representatives and Senate for all the work that they have done to support the ESGR in the Commonwealth.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. (ret.) Renie A. Llaneta, who is the Guam-CNMI ESGR Committee state chairman, handed the certificates to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan and Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) for contributing to national defense through their “dedication and continuing support for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve Forces during fiscal year 2023.”

Several ESGR committee officials, including David Sablan, also known as Uncle Dave, who was one of the pioneers of ESGR in the CNMI, and other lawmakers were present at the ceremony.

CNMI ESGR area chair Rita Sablan said that, on behalf of the Guam-CNMI state ESGR Committee, she would like to thank, honor, and celebrate their partners in the community—employers in the public and private sectors who work to ensure that service members are taken care of.

“This year, we want to really stretch our arms and say thank you to all of you for really being a support system to ESGR, not just because we are an organization out of the Department of Defense but because of the work that you did to ensure that our service members and our employers are taken care of,” she said.

DeLeon Guerrero said she is a mother of a veteran herself and being involved in workforce employment for veterans is heartwarming.

“In our programs, we consider them as priority,” said DeLeon Guerrero as she noted that Gov. Arnold I. Palacios recently signed into law a bill that gives preferential employment for veterans.

OPA

From page 1

In its report yesterday, OPA also determined that the absence of an SOP has resulted in a lack of segregation of duties at one collection point; cash overages and shortages at five collection points were noted during a surprise collection count; and change fund was not consistently provided to all the collection points.

OPA said the finding indicates a lack of accountability and oversight of daily collections.

OPA did the audit on Finance’s sanctioned collection points on the island for the period of Dec. 14, 2022, through Dec. 16, 2022, to determine if daily collections are properly accounted for.

In Finance’s response to the audit, Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita said the department has met with key personnel involved in the process of cash handling to acknowledge the findings of the draft audit report and implement measures to resolve the matters cited.

Norita said the Division of CNMI Treasury has begun efforts to finalize and disseminate an official cash handling SOP, along with other agency-specific SOPs being compiled for all Finance-sanctioned collection points on Saipan. The target completion date is Aug. 31, 2023. She also outlined steps that the department is taking to address all concerns cited in the audit.

OPA said that Finance provided them with the listing of collection points, but did not have an SOP. Consequently, OPA extended its audit procedures to include interviews with key personnel, walkthroughs of processes, and observations at each collection point to gain an understanding of the daily collection activities.

OPA also performed surprise collection counts at all collection points. OPA said that five collection points did not perform daily reconciliation procedures and timely remittance of collections to Treasury.

At one collection point, OPA was unable to validate collections totaling $3,650 as reconciliation and supporting documents were not provided.

OPA found that daily collections and MOCRs were not properly secured at five collection points. Two of the collection points neither had a security system nor a locked safe/cabinet to properly secure the MOCRs and unremitted collections.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SHOOTING

From page 1

before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho yesterday for a bail hearing.

After the hearing, *Saipan Tribune* obtained a copy of the complaint filed in support of Saralu’s arrest, which essentially compiled reports from police officers who investigated the incident.

According to the complaint, the evidence found at the scene may have been tampered with as the gun that was allegedly determined to have been used in the shooting was found in a laundry basket and covered with clothes while another gun was found on the floor near the 7-year-old who had been shot.

During the bail hearing, Saralu’s lawyer, Karie Comstock, asked that the court to reduce her client’s bail to at least 10% of his initial $50,000 bail, stating that the crime was not a crime of malice.

However, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds opposed the request, stating that there should be more conditions set before bail is reduced and Saralu is released to the same environment where the incident had occurred.

Camacho denied the defense’s request to reduce bail until further release conditions are proposed, noting his concern that some form of tampering may have been involved in this case.

“I have concerns. Based on the affidavit, the firearm was found on a belt in a chair but when police came, the gun was back in its holster under some clothes. Then, another gun was found on the floor. There are things that don’t add up. My concern is that money will be posted [for bail] but without guarantees. Therefore the court denies reduction of bail. The court can address [bail modification] once restrictions are discussed,” he said.

After the bail hearing, Camacho ordered that Saralu be remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered him to return to court on Aug. 11 at 10am for his preliminary hearing. Meanwhile, Saralu’s arraignment was set for Aug. 21.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ENRIQUEZ

From page 1

moves to the presidency after serving as the senior vice president and provost at UOG for the last 10 years.

“The Board [of Regents] is excited about the future of the university under her capable leadership,” said board chair Liza Provido. “We are confident that she will bring a wealth of experience, leadership, and vision to her new role, leading UOG to even greater heights.”

Over her 30-year career at UOG, Enriquez has held other administrator positions, including serving as the first female CHamoru dean of the UOG School of Business and Public Administration, interim director of the Center for Continuing Education and Outreach Programs, and most recently, the senior vice president and provost.

In addition to her career in academia, Enriquez has extensive private sector experience in organizational management and marketing and as an entrepreneur. She believes her careers in private enterprise and public service fuels her passion for workforce and economic development for the island and the rest of Micronesia.

“The University of Guam is a conduit that energizes our economy, provides our community opportunities for social mobility, informs public policy, and cultivates our future thought leaders,” said Enriquez.

Thankful for the board’s vote of confidence, Enriquez said she will be guided by Guam’s “cultural values of respect, of compassion, of community.

“The University’s mission is ‘Ina, Deskubre, Setbe — To Enlighten, To Discover, To Serve,’” she said. “Student-centered focus and service to our island and region is woven into everything we do as a university.”

Enriquez holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from University of Maryland Global Campus, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Guam, and a Doctor of Business Administration in International Business Administration (Marketing) from Alliant International University.

Enriquez is the second woman to become president in the 71-year history of UOG. The late Rosa Carter was president of the university from 1977 to 1983.

The transition in leadership follows the completion of former president Thomas W. Krise’s five-year term on Aug. 5.

The schedule for Enriquez’s investiture ceremony will be announced in the coming weeks. ***(UOG)***

CHCC

From page 3

pendicitis. Instead, Palacios was only prescribed pain medication, which made her appendicitis worse,” Aguon argues.

On April 5, 2021, Palacios said she described her pain to her daughter-in-law, a nurse, who instructed her to touch her abdomen to find out if she felt any pain.

After determining that her abdomen was painful enough to touch, Palacios’ daughter-in-law told Palacios to rush to the hospital as she recognized the symptoms of appendicitis.

At CHCC, Palacios was diagnosed with acute complicated appendicitis with perforation and abscess and had to undergo surgery as it was determined that her diagnosis was life-threatening.

Palacios claims that, due to the misdiagnosis, she suffered severe emotional distress.

FAA sets up new process for Hawaii air tour operators to fly lower

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration said Friday that it is setting up a new process for air tour operators in Hawaii to be approved to fly at lower altitudes after numerous fatal crashes in recent years.

Current FAA regulations require air tour operators to fly at 1,500 feet (460 meters) unless they have authorization to go lower.

The agency said in a news release that it has outlined the new process for securing that authorization, including recommendations for pilot training, qualifications and aircraft equipment. The FAA said it will thoroughly review each operator's safety plan before it issues an authorization.

"This process will help prevent situations where pilots encounter poor visibility and become disoriented," said David Boulter, the FAA's acting associate administrator for aviation safety.

In 2019, a pilot and six passengers were killed when their helicopter crashed in turbulent weather near Kauai's famed Na Pali Coast.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation blamed the crash on the pilot's decision to keep flying in worsening weather. The board also said the FAA failed to do enough to ensure that tour pilots in Hawaii are trained in handling bad weather.

Also in 2019, three people died when a helicopter crashed on a street in the Honolulu suburb of Kailua.

And earlier that same year, a skydiving plane crashed on Oahu's North Shore, killing 11. Investigators blamed the pilot's aggressive takeoff for that crash.

U.S. Rep. Ed Case, a Democra, cautiously welcomed the FAA"s new steps.

"On first review, this seems to be a serious restart attempt by the FAA to address escalating air tour safety and community disruption concerns," Case said in an emailed statement.

But Case said "it remains to be seen" if tour operators will comply with the letter and the spirit of the initiative and whether the FAA will enforce it.

"But even if they do, the end solution is strict compliance with all safety requirements and strict regulation of time, place and other conditions of operation to mitigate disruption," Case said.

ANTI-DRUG TASK FORCE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Public Safety Commissioner Clement R. Bermudes, Corrections Commissioner Anthony C. Torres, Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita, Customs and Biosecurity director Jose C. Mafnas, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher S. Tenorio represented by Ports Police chief Juan T. Dela Cruz, and Commerce Secretary Francisco D. Cabrera pose with Gov.Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and other law enforcers last Wednesday morning to commemorate the signing of an agreement to reestablish and reorganize a joint Drug Prevention Task Force.

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam APEX Accelerator (formerly known as Guam PTAC) is offering free webinars/workshops this August. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom link will be emailed to registrants 30 minutes before the webinar.

■ **Aug. 10, 2023 – SAM Registrations** — Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in Federal contracting. The Guam APEX Accelerator will take you through the new Entity Validation process, the actual SAM registration, and follow-up requirements. We will also discuss the new annual renewal process.

■ **Aug. 14, 2023 – Federal Contracting Roundtable w/SBA** — Nicolas Manalisay, SBA Area VI director, will lead a roundtable discussion on the various SBA small business certification programs. If you have any questions/concerns regarding; 8(a), HUBZone, SDVSOB, and EDWOSB/WOSB certification, then now is the time to voice them. ***This is an in-person event at UOG School of Business & Public Administration, Room 112 from 2pm to 4pm.***

■ **Aug. 24, 2023 – PIEE – Solicitation Module -** DOD's Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment consists of many modules used in DOD contracting. The Solicitation Module is used for contracting officials to post solicitations, including restricted attachments, and receive proposals from contractors/vendors, in a secure environment. The Guam Apex Accelerator will guide DOD contractors/vendors on how to register for and use this module.

Register on our website at https://guamapex.com/events ***(PR)***

SCC reminds students to apply for 2023 Chamber scholarships

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is reminding all students to seize the opportunity and apply for the SCC Educational Scholarship program for the fall 2023 semester.

This year, the SCC offers two scholarship categories: the Chamber Education Award and the Pellegrino Vocational Trade Award. These awards are specially designed to support students attending Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Technical Institute, including the Cultural Maritime Training program with 500 Sails.

Education is vital for our community's future, and SCC is fully committed to making it happen. The scholarships were funded through the successful 14th Annual Golf Tournament, showing our strong dedication to supporting deserving students' education.

Applications for the SCC Educational Scholarships are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office and on our website at www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program/. The deadline is on Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, at 12pm. Please note applications received after 12:01pm will not be entertained. Don't miss this chance to apply! Ensure your applications, along with the required documents, are submitted to scholarship@saipanchamber.org or at our office located in the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 201-A, second floor.

For more information or any inquiries about the SCC Educational Scholarship, contact us via email at scholarship@saipanchamber.org or call (670) 234-7150. Our dedicated team is ready to assist you with any questions you may have. ***(SCC)***

Deadline for '23 Annuity Recipient Information Update (Form SF-200)

The Settlement Fund is requesting all members to submit their 2023 Annuity Recipient Information Update form (Form SF-200) by the Sept. 29, 2023 deadline. The form can be obtained online at https://www.nmisf.com/forms-2/.

Members residing on Rota and Tinian may submit documents to Settlement Fund staff who will be on Rota and Tinian on the following dates:

■ **ROTA**

❖ Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, 9am to 4pm, Rota Mayor's Office.

❖ Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, 8:30am to 3pm, Rota Mayor's Office

■ **TINIAN**

❖ Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, 9am to 4pm, Tinian Mayor's Office.

❖ Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, 9am to 4pm, Tinian Mayor's Office.

Failure to comply, including failure to provide complete information or documents, will result in a suspension of benefit payments and/or the delay of important communications and processing of benefits until such time that a member is in full compliance.

Forms and accompanying documents may be submitted by: (1) email to info@nmisf.com; mail to P.O. Box 501247, Saipan, MP 96950;(2) facsimile to (670) 664-8080, with the original sent by mail; or (3) hand delivery to the Settlement Fund, Isa Drive, Capital Hill. ***(PR)***

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SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on August 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from June 29th, 2023

II. **Public Comment (s)**

III. **Committee Reports**
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs

IV. **Administrator's Report**

V. **Chairman's Report**

VI. **Old Business**
1. None

VII. **New Business**
1. Fall 2023 application status
2. Composition of Board members

VIII. **Executive Session**

IX. **Miscellaneous Matters**

X. **Next Meeting**

XI. **Adjournment**

/s/ Ms. Kaelani B. Demapan,
Acting Chairwoman, Board of SHEFA Directors

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change Name of:	]	FCD FP CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0283
SIYUAN ZHANG, Petitioner.	]	NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on the Petition for Change of Name on September 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of July, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Joey P. San Nicolas
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Attorney for Concepcion V. San Nicolas, Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HERMAN MUNA MANGLONA, Decedent.	:	Civil Action No.: 20-0093-CV NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Administratrix for the decree of final distribution will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the day of August 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this day 4th of August , 2023.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

A New NMC is Coming!

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Northern Marianas College vice president Frankie Eliptico makes a fun and grand entrance after his opener during the NMC Student Center Groundbreaking Ceremony last Aug. 3, 2023, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios delivers his remarks during the NMC Student Center Groundbreaking Ceremony last Aug. 3, 2023, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje to share some congratulatory words and doughnuts.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Bob Schwalbach, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan's chief of staff, speaks on his behalf during NMC Student Center groundbreaking ceremony last Aug. 3, 2023, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero makes his welcoming remarks during the NMC Student Center Groundbreaking Ceremony.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

In concluding the ceremony, John Gonzales and his team conduct a traditional Chamorro blessing for the groundbreaking ceremony.s.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Gov. Arnold I Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang shake hands with Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero and NMC vice president Frankie Eliptico shortly after breaking ground for NMC's upcoming student center in As Terlaje.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dressed in traditional regalia, John Gonzales and his team blow traditional conch shells to signify the official groundbreaking rites.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Several Northern Marianas students pose with groundbreaking shovels before handing them over to officials during NMC Student Center groundbreaking ceremony last Aug. 3, 2023, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

A crowd of over 500, supporters, business partners, government agencies, dignitaries, community members, and students joined the Northern Marianas College for the NMC Student Center Groundbreaking Ceremony last Aug. 3, 2023, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The audience claps as Northern Marianas College's Frankie Eliptico after his entrance during the NMC Student Center Groundbreaking Ceremony.je.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dignitaries listen to remarks during the NMC Student Center groundbreaking ceremony.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Palm Trio, Netty Cee, and Frank "The Crank" Camacho make a special appearance at the NMC Student Center Groundbreaking Ceremony last Aug. 3, 2023, at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje to share some congratulatory words and doughnuts.

BUILDING HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE CAPACITY

20 students complete NMC's nursing assistant training program

NMC
The 20 participants of Northern Marianas College's Nursing Assistant program will receive their certificates this Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023.

Northern Marianas College continues its commitment to enhancing healthcare workforce capacity in the CNMI, with 20 students set to earn their certificate of completion from the college's nursing assistant training program. The program has graduated 78 other students in prior cohorts.

The college's certificate training has been equipping students to deliver essential nursing care to elderly, ill, and disabled individuals in various healthcare settings, including long-term care, hospitals, clinics, and home health. Upon completion, students become eligible to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Competency Examination with the NMI Board of Nursing, leading to certification as a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant.

Under the 10-week program, students spend four weeks of lectures with NMC nursing instructors, three weeks in the skills lab, and three weeks in clinicals at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.. The students in the ongoing cohort will graduate from the training on Aug. 12, 2023.

One student, Amea Reyes, said that she is very excited about the opportunities that the nursing assistant training is providing her for her career in nursing.

"I thought that this would be a great opportunity to build a foundation in the environment and gain experience along the way," she said. "I wanted to work as a CNA while also pursuing my degree in nursing so that while I'm going to school I can be bringing in income and simultaneously learning through observation of the other staff."

Another student, Jessie Boyer, said he wanted to become a licensed CNA in preparation for the nursing program.

"As a student currently enrolled in NMC, it was an opportunity for me to get a head start in nursing before heading into the actual program," Boyer said. "It was also a way for me to see if nursing in general was the right path for me."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa T. Aldan said the college is deeply committed to addressing the healthcare needs of the CNMI and hopes to offer more allied health certificate trainings in the near future.

"Our nursing assistant training empowers aspiring nursing assistants with comprehensive training, instilling in them the skills and compassion needed to make a significant difference in the lives of patients and their families," Aldan said. "We are confident that they will play a vital role in enhancing healthcare services in the CNMI after this training. We take great pride in nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals who will serve our islands with unwavering dedication and integrity."

Carlos Santos, the Human Resources chief at CHCC, said the collaboration between NMC and CHCC is an opportunity for the hospital and the CNMI to grow their grassroots nursing workforce capacity.

"CHCC is committed to supporting the nursing students who want to work in the CNMI in getting the certification, education, and licensing support from NMC and the hospital and supporting their goals as professionals," Santos said. "NMC is the key partner in providing this feeder program for our nursing needs and then also building workforce capacity so our organization and others do not need to only rely on bringing in outside labor to fill our needs, but develop our own workforce to meet this need. Our continued partnership with the college is the key to success for our organization and it is also such a pleasure to see the new nursing cohorts on campus working alongside everyone and contributing to the success of CHCC."

For more information on the college's nursing assistant training, email Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or Andrew Mendiola, administrative assistant, at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

GMS caps summer program with recital, musical

Green Meadow School concluded its eight-week summer program with a recital, followed by a lively musical last July 29, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Students from K3 to Grade 1 from both Gualo Rai and Chalan Kiya campuses showcased their dancing prowess and entertained the crowd. The Gualo Rai campus students excelled in their cowboy- themed performance while the Chalan Kiya kindergartners wowed the audience with their baby shark and gummy bear dance. The recital was also graced by Tumon Bay Festival's gold medalist Chealzka Navarro, who is a proud GMS alumna.

Meanwhile, Grade 1 to Grade 8 students of the school's Key Notes School of Music, headed by teacher Maricel Javier, performed several pieces, with the two-month music class producing musically talented pianists, ukulele players, drummer, and singers.

One of the highlights of the day's event was GMS' adaptation of the play, *Matilda the Musical.*

The production was composed of 12 scenes, each having their own captivating songs performed by students from 1st to 6th grade, while 7th and 8th graders helped with all the backstage action.

As the School Year 2023-2024 commences, the school would like to invite all GMS parents to the Parent's Orientation Day:

- Preschool-Aug. 9, 2023
- Elementary-Aug. 10, 2023
- Middle school-Aug. 11, 2023

All at 5pm to 6pm.

For more information about Green Meadow School, call (670) 235-2185, email info@greenmeadowschool.net or visit its main campus in Chalan Kiya past Saipan Health Clinic. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A scene from the *Matilda the Musical*, which Green Meadow School held last July 29, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A student of the Key Notes School of Music perform under the baton of teacher Maricel Javier, perform in a recital last July 29, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students from K3 to Grade 1 from both Gualo Rai and Chalan Kiya campuses of Green Meadow School showcase their dancing prowess and entertained the crowd.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ukulele students of Grade 1 to Grade 8 students of the school's Key Notes School of Music perform in a recital last July 29, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Less garbage = fewer rats: Tidied up food waste and skipping unneeded takeout extras make for a cleaner city

This week arrive two sizable improvements to the production and collection of garbage in New York City. Moving forward, we hope these and future innovations mean there will be less of it in the first place, and less for rats and other creatures to feast on while it awaits sanitation pickup.

One step forward arrives today, via a new city rule that all food-related businesses must set out their refuse—restaurants, grocery stores, caterers, delis, bodegas and other places that sell or handle food—using rigid containers with secure lids. It's a perfectly sensible requirement to prevent all-you-can-eat rodent buffets on streets and sidewalks.

That ought to build on gathering momentum in Mayor Adams' war on rats; last week the city revealed that rat complaints to 311 are down 20% over the last month-and-a-half, with complaints in the city's four "rat mitigation zones" dropping by more than 45% on average.

Attribute the decline to the sum of a few new policies, most notably pushing back garbage collection times by a number of hours to give the critters less time to feast. So-called "rat czarina" Kathy Corradi has correctly talked a good game and begun implementing a science-based approach that among other things aims to cut back on the amount of food waste left in public spaces in the first place. That's far more important than rolling out flashy rat-killing strategies like those that Adams favors.

New York's waste strategy needs to pay much closer attention to how much we generate, which is why another set of regulations that went into effect yesterday have merit. "Skip the Stuff" rules bar establishments from including utensils, condiment packets, napkins or extra plates with takeout and delivery food orders unless the customer requests them. Since those things often just wind up going straight in the garbage, it's a sensible shift. Nobody will be deprived of the right, if you can even call it that, to get plastic cutlery— but neither will they be treated as automatic entitlements.

Given how tough it already is to be a small business in New York, we're pleased that fines won't begin until for a year—and we're pleased that even then, fines will be modest, starting at $50 for a first offense, growing to $150 for a second and $250 for a third and subsequent offense. Hopefully, the regulation itself and the presence of some fine structure, along with occasional visits from city inspectors, will lead to restaurants obeying the rules while not feeling suffocated by them.

The next big rat-busting innovation, assuming it holds up, will be the City Council-imposed shift to citywide organic collecting later this year and next. That—if implemented well, a bit if—will deprive many of our disgusting scurrying frenemies of breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight snack.

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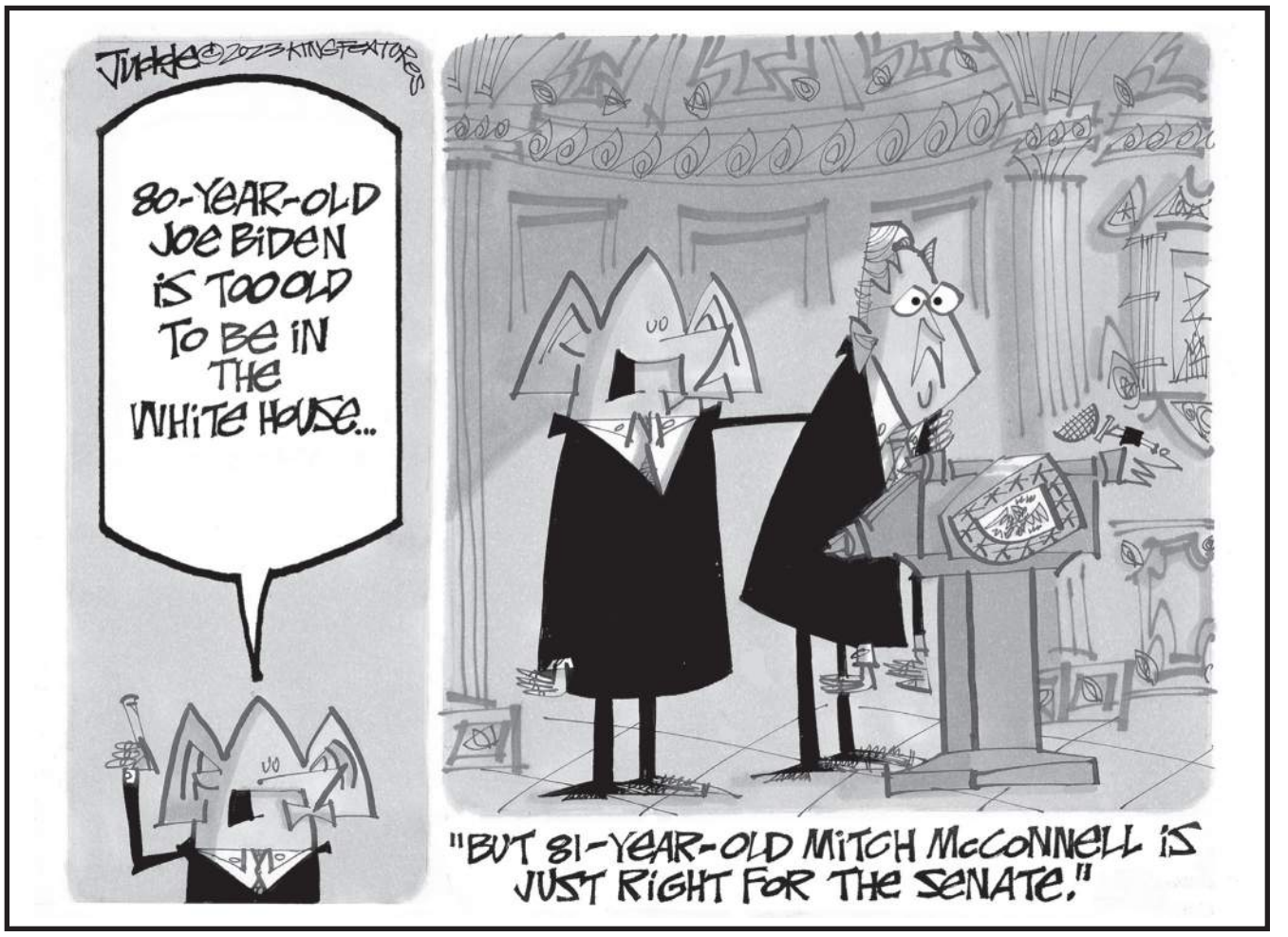

JUKE ©2023 KING FEATURES
80-YEAR-OLD JOE BIDEN IS TOO OLD TO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE..
"BUT 81-YEAR-OLD MITCH McCONNELL IS JUST RIGHT FOR THE SENATE."

Peace in the Pacific

By DON FARRELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech the author gave as the keynote speaker in yesterday's Peace Memorial at the Veterans' Memorial Park on Tinian that was organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Seventy-eight years ago, the Pacific War was still undecided, even though the Japanese Army was falling back on all fronts while the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Air Forces were imposing their will on the Imperial Japanese Navy.

By this date in August 1945, the Chinese army had broken in to Kweilin, while other Chinese units captured Tanchuk Airfield. Elements of the Australian 7th Division were working their way through Borneo. The U.S. Tenth Air Force was fighting at Kunming. The X Corps was fighting in Mindanao. Units of the British Fleet had joined the U.S. Third Fleet warships in bombarding Japan's ports and shoreline facilities. The U.S. Eighth Army landed on Balut Island at the entrance to Sargini Bay, Philippines. And, MacArthur was preparing for the invasion of Kyushu, Japan, Operation Olympic, scheduled for Nov. 1,1945. Airbases could be established there in support of forward operations on Honshu and the march to Tokyo, what was left of it. An estimated 10,000 people were dying daily throughout the Indo-Pacific.

Demonstrating America's industrial might, the combined Allied naval armada preparing for the invasion of Kyushu Island, Japan, included 42 aircraft carriers, 24 battleships, and 400 destroyers. Fourteen U.S. divisions, some 280,000 men, were scheduled to take part in the initial landings.

The Japanese defense relied heavily on more than 10,000 aircraft, including kamikazes, as well as hundreds of newly built suicide boats to attack Allied ships offshore.

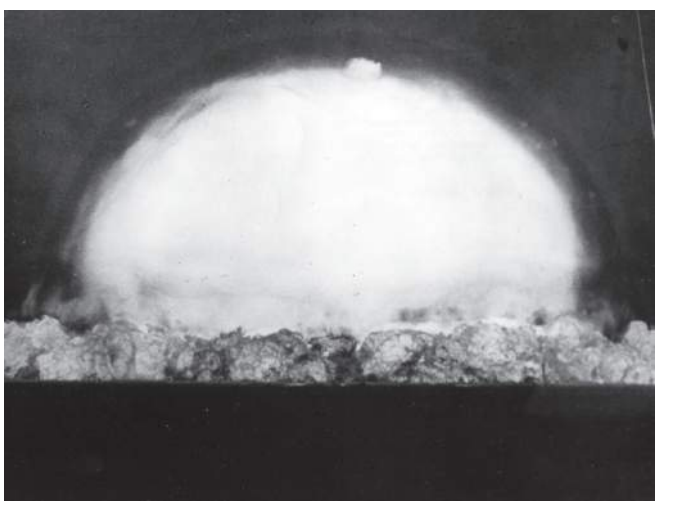
Adm. King, commander-in-chief of the U.S Navy, was so concerned about losses from kamikaze attacks that he and other senior naval officers argued for canceling the operation

The Battle of Okinawa had cost the U.S. 49,151 casualties. Of those, 12,520 were killed or missing and 36,631 were wounded in action. If the U.S. casualty rate during the invasion of Japan had been only 5% as high per unit area as it was at Okinawa, the U.S. would still lose an estimated 297,000 soldiers (killed or missing) by the end of Operation Downfall.

At this time, the best guesses on the end of the war was mid-1946, although some chanted "The Golden Gate in '48."

Unknown to the outside world, the U.S. had been developing an atomic bomb, a tool they hoped would bring the war to a sudden and decisive end.

On Jan. 19, 1945, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, sent Gen. Leslie Groves, commander, Manhattan Project, his first prospective timeline for bomb deliveries: Aug. 1 for one Little Boy and one Fat Man. That information sparked the decision on where the bombs would be assembled for delivery to Japan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This photo taken about 2 seconds after the bomb exploded at Trinity Test, July 16, 1945, verified that the plutonium-based, implosion type bomb worked.

Gen. Groves dispatched Commander Dick Ashworth to Guam on Feb. 10 to inform Adm. Nimitz of the bomb project and ask permission to choose a site for the 509th Composite Group and Manhattan Project operations. In the end, he chose Tinian. There was no room at Isley Field on Saipan and Guam didn't have any runways ready to use. Lastly, Tinian was 100 miles closer to the target and provided better security for the secret.

The next man sent to Tinian was Col. Elmer E. Kirkpatrick, Jr., Army Corps of Engineers, Gen. Groves' personal "go to" guy. Disguised as an Army Air Force engineer, he met with Brig. Gen. Frederic von Harten Kimble, Tinian Island commander, on March 27, who assigned the 67th Naval Construction Battalion to build whatever facilities Kirkpatrick requested, including the 1st Ordnance Squadron camp (later called the High Tech area) where parts for the bombs would be stored and some of the subassemblies completed; the three Atomic Bomb Assembly buildings and the two atomic bomb loading pits.

The first elements of the 509th Composite Group, which included not only the 15 Silverplate B-29s of the 393 Bombardment Group, and a variety of support groups, arrived at North Field on May 18. The first shipment of cargo for the Manhattan Project landed at Tinian on Memorial Day.

On June 5, Col. Paul Tibbets, Jr. commander of the 509th, arrived on Guam for meetings with Gen. LeMay. On June 11, the first of the 509th's Silverplate bombers arrived at North Field.

It had already been decided that the Little Boy, the uranium-based, gun-type atomic bomb, would not be tested. The scientist gave it a 100% probability of detonation. However, Fat Man, the plutonium-based, implosion-type atomic bomb, would require testing. That test

See PEACE on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

PEACE

From page 8

took place on July 16 in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico. It was successful, shocking everyone present. Immediately following the test, the scientists and technicians who would assemble the bomb on Tinian were bussed from Los Alamos to California, where they joined the U.S. Army (sort of) and then flew on to Tinian.

Word of the successful test were cabled to Truman at Potsdam, Germany, where he was meeting with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Marshall Joseph Stalin. The Potsdam Declaration, demanding the unconditional surrender of Japan, was issued on July 26. That same day, the USS Indianapolis arrived at Tinian after a 10-day run from California, carrying about half of the refined uranium for Little Boy, as well as the L-11 casing. The remaining uranium would be delivered by air.

Little Boy was ready for delivery to Japan by July 31, but they had to wait for clear weather. Orders had been issued that the bombardier had to actually see the target through his Norten bombsite before he could release the bomb. At first, LeMay's weathermen predicted clear weather over Japan for Aug. 5, then postponed to Aug. 6, 1945, 78 years ago yesterday. Remembering Pearl Harbor, remembering the Bataan Death March, and remembering all the chances Japan had to quit the war but refused, Col. Paul Tibbets, piloting the B-29 Enola Gay, dropped Little Boy on Hiroshima on the morning of Aug. 6, 1945. Once again, President Truman encouraged the Japanese to immediately accept the Potsdam Declaration to prevent another atomic bombing.

Premier Stalin had a fit. America had beaten him to the bomb. He still wanted a piece of Japan, as he had half of Korea and piece of Germany. After throwing a tantrum, he ordered his generals to launch the invasion of Japanese-held Manchuria and prepare for an airborne invasion of Hokkaido.

The following morning, today, Aug. 7, 78 years ago, Tibbets, Adm. William Purnell, the Navy's representative to the Manhattan Project, and Brig. Gen. Thomas Farrell, deputy to Gen. Groves, met with Gen. LeMay in Guam to discuss the Fat Man mission. Not unexpectedly, weather became a problem. A new front was moving toward Japan and they could not depend on clear weather after Aug. 9. The bomb was not scheduled to be ready to drop before Aug. 10. The critical question was whether to wait for the new weather front to move through, which could be several days, or move the mission up the 9th.

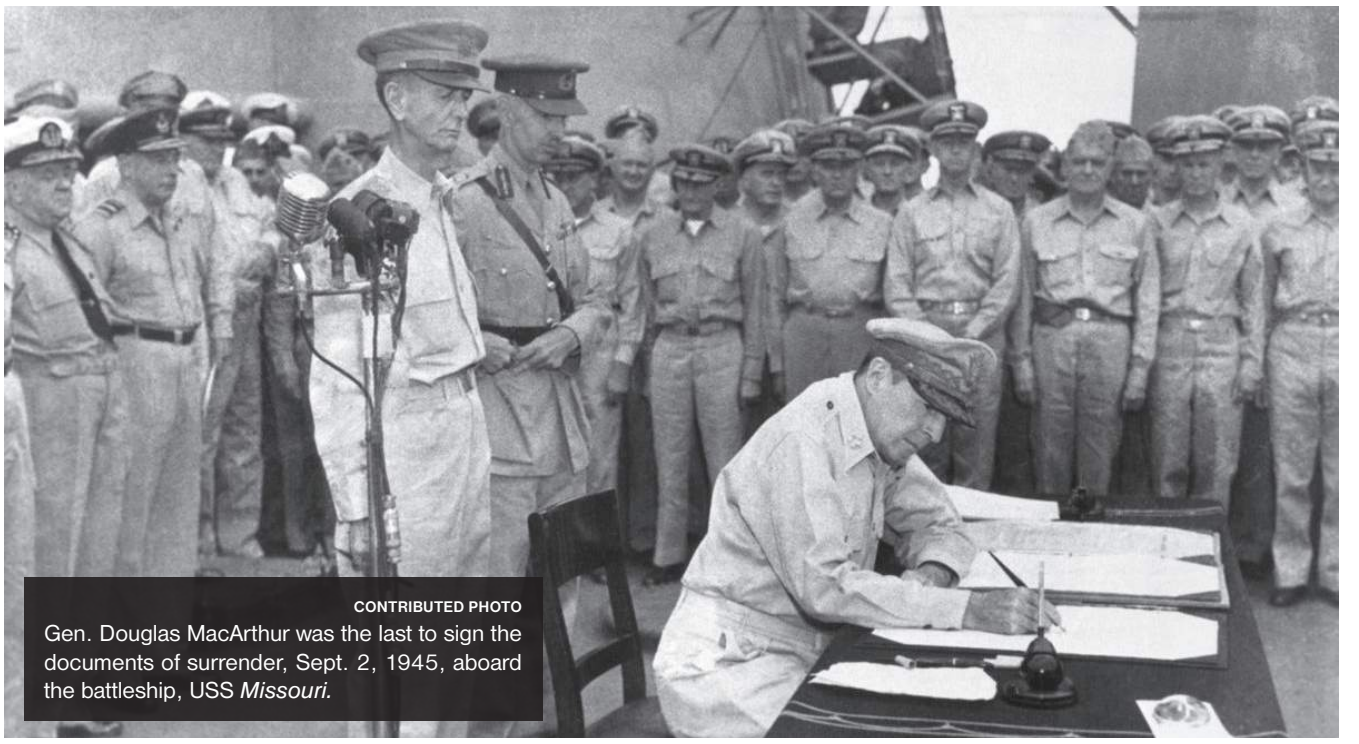
Dr. Norman Ramsey, the chief physicist on Tinian, said he could make it happen (even though there were some new parts that were not fully tested), but he could only give it an 80% chance of detonation. Because Adm. Purnell had prophesized that it would take two bombs, one dropped shortly after the other, to convince the Japanese to surrender, they agreed to the Aug. 9 delivery date. Back on Tinian that evening, Col. Tibbets assigned Ma. Charles Sweeney, a non-combat-tested pilot, to fly the mission.

The Fat Man assembly team spent every minute of Aug. 8 doing their very best to properly prepared Fat Man for delivery on the 9th, loading the bomb into the B-29 Bockscar.

At 03:48 in the morning, Aug. 9, Chuck Sweeney, piloting the B-29 Bockscar, lifted off from North Field and headed north toward his primary target, Kokura.

That same morning, and unknown to the rest of the world, at 01:00 Manchurian time, 05:58 Tinian time, the Russian Army attacked the Japanese army of Manchuria, entering the war against Japan.

Unfortunately, for Sweeney, but fortunately for the people of Kokura, its was covered with smoke and haze, preventing the bombardier from seeing the target. Sweeney was forced to head for his secondary target, Nagasaki, where he managed to drop the bomb at 12:02pm. After making a desperate landing at Wonton Airfield, Okinawa, Sweeney finally, after 19 and a quarter tension-filled hours, landed back on Tinian at 11: 06pm.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gen. Douglas MacArthur was the last to sign the documents of surrender, Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the battleship, USS *Missouri.*

At 0645am the following morning, Aug. 10, the Japanese government transmitted its initial offer to accept the Potsdam terms to the Swiss and Swedish embassies.

Emperor Hirohito transmitted his surrender message to the people of Japan on Aug. 15. Stalin's armies were still driving toward Hokkaido. On the 16th, Stalin wrote to Truman, "Russian public opinion would be gravely offended if the Russian troops had no occupation area in any part of the territory of Japan proper."

Truman, with another Fat Man being prepared on Tinian, was ready for Stalin, "Regarding your suggestion as to the surrender of Japanese forces on the island of Hokkaido to Soviet forces, it is my intention and arrangements have been made for the surrender of Japanese forces on all the islands of Japan proper to Gen. MacArthur."

Wisely, President Truman decided to leave Japan's imperial system in place. Following Truman's lead, Gen. MacArthur, supreme commander for the Allied Forces, wisely chose to work closely with Emperor Hirohito toward the redevelopment of a unified Japan and a strong alliance with the United States. With that, Japan was guaranteed to remain a unified nation with their kokutai intact.

Therefore, the use of the bombs, at the time they were used, ended all the killing and provided for a strong alliance between Japan and the United States for a lasting "Peace in the Pacific."

Had the bombs not been used, Japan would have been divided into a Russian, Communist North Japan and an independent South Japan, just like Korea, and there never would have been a Japanese tourist industry for our islands to enjoy.

Furthermore, had Truman not used the bomb, what would he tell the mothers of all the boys who died in combat before Japan could be forced to surrender months later through starvation and continued conventional bombing?

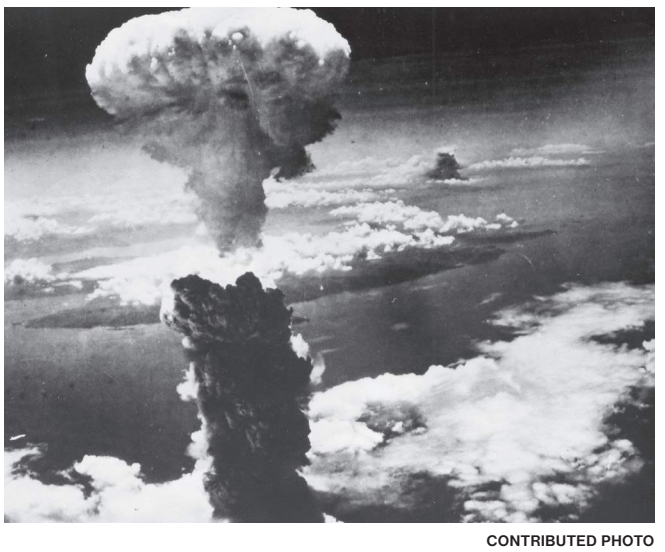
Although the United States has experienced two "proxy wars" in Asia, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, there have been none since -- sixty years of peace.

Today, once again, the Indo-Pacific region is facing troubling days. North Korea is threatening a nuclear attack against Guam, causing the United States to begin refurbishing old air bases in the region, just in case.

China is attempting to impose its will on Taiwan.

Both are serious causes for concern among all Pacific people. We can only hope that common sense will prevail, and Peace in the Pacific will be maintained.

Don A. Farrell is a noted CNMI historian who has published several books, the latest of which is Tinian and the Bomb. *He has 35 years of government service, including chief of staff to the speaker of the Guam Legislature, and chief of staff to the mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan. He has also served as chairman of the CNMI Board of Education and a member of both the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the CNMI Historic Preservation Review board.*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fat Man, the implosion type, plutonium bomb exploded about 2,000 feet above Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

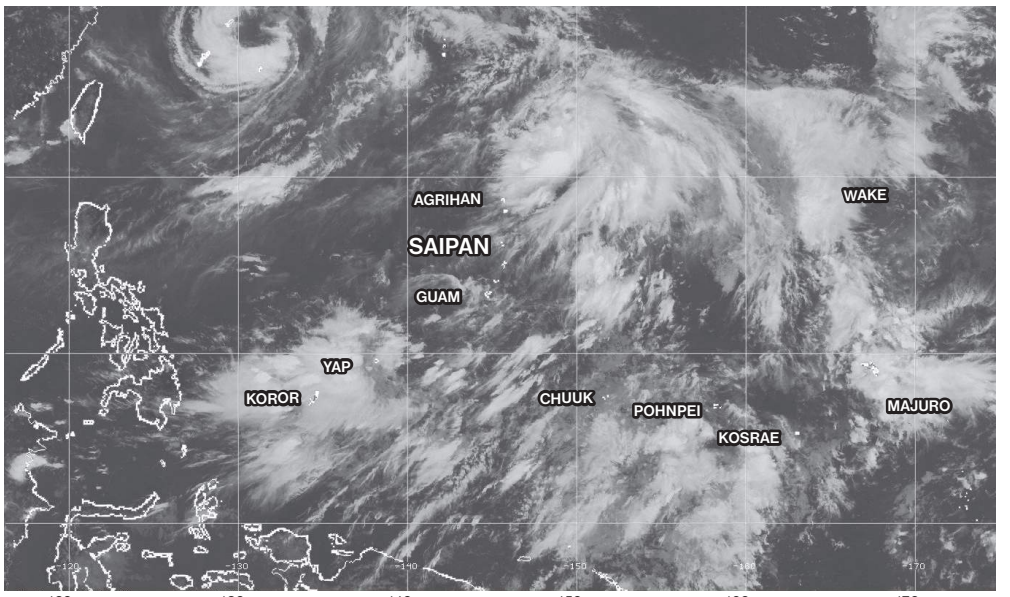
Shortly after the ceremonies aboard the *Missouri* finished, 1,000 American aircraft, including B-29s from Saipan, Tinian, and Guam flew over Tokyo Bay

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy	Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Cloudy	Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy
84° 80°	87° 80°	86° 79°	86° 80°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite indicating partly cloudy skies with isolated showers for the CNMI. Mostly cloudy skies and scattered showers for Guam. Ipan buoy showing seas 2 to 4 feet, while altimetry to west of the coastal waters showing seas slightly higher. Our region will see increasing shower and thunderstorm potential as we head through the week, some of which may be locally heavy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 78°
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	97° / 81°
Paris	Showers	79° / 61°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 73°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	92° / 72°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:06 AM	11:05 PM
Tuesday	-	12:02 PM	11:47 PM
Wednesday	-	12:57 PM	-
Thursday	12:31 AM	1:53 PM	-
Friday	1:19 AM	2:49 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:21 AM	Low Tide	0.66
12:04 PM	High Tide	1.78
6:09 PM	Low Tide	0.77
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

MINA touts new plastic recycling campaign at Chamber meeting

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero touted the nonprofit's new plastic recycling campaign during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting last Wednesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

She said MINA's Community Recycles Plastic campaign's goal is to tear down the old linear economy of getting rid of plastic by just throwing them and in its place a circular economy.

While the old linear economy made use of the "take-make-dispose" strategy, the circular economy concept hopes to put in place the"make-use-recycle" concept.

To this end, MINA recently acquired a 3-in-1 Plastic Upcycling Machine that creates products for a myriad of uses for the local community.

Using recycled plastic that usually end up at the dumpsite in Marpi like soda and mouthwash bottles, peanut butter, salad dressing, and vegetable oil containers, plastic bags, milk jugs, and even discarded plastic toys, MINA has produced all sort of household products ranging from plastic bowls and strainers, to snack clips, and even Lego-like bricks for children.

Guerrero said the 3-in-1 Plastic Upcycling Machine so far has worked like a charm as sorted out plastic first goes into the shredder hopper before it passes through an extrusion machine. It then gets funneled into an injection machine where it is fashioned into different items for daily use.

Guerrero said the genesis for the new plastic recycling campaign came after MINA found out that the CNMI Public School System's meal program produces a lot of plastic waste from the containers it uses.

She said PSS distributes approximately 3,392,820 meals a year that translates to a boatload of plastic bottles, plastic forks and spoons, and plastic food containers that could end up in the soon-to-be over-capacity landfill in Marpi.

"This is just in the public schools and doesn't include private schools, fiestas, parties, and other events. So you can just imagine how much plastic actually goes to the landfill because it can't go anywhere else at this point," she said.

One of the downsides of the 3-in-1 Plastic Upcycling Machine, however, is that caps of plastic bottles can't really be shredded.

Aside from the Community Recycles Plastic campaign, MINA also has other projects ongoing, namely the Adopt-A-Bin Program, Schools For Environmental Conservation, Marine Debris Assessments, Bring Back Our Trees, Monofilament Recycling Bin, and the Tasi Watch Community.

Schools For Environmental Conservation provides hands-on project-based learning experiences to middle school students.

Adopt-A-Bin Program allocates recycling bins to popular beaches and tourist sites throughout Saipan, while Marine Debris Assessments has so far removed 79,000 lbs of debris from the Tinian Harbor and southern coast of Saipan after Super Typhoon Yutu.

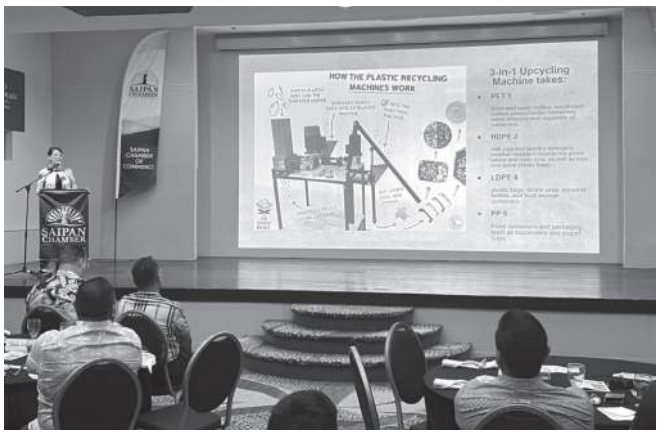
To promote responsible fishing and help protect turtles and birds from getting entangled in fishing lines, MINA's Monofilament Recycling Bin program has installed 10 monofilament line bins in high-usage areas on Saipan where fishermen can place their used monofilament lines to be collected and recycled.

The Bring Back Our Trees program, for its part, has planted over 1,000 native trees with more than 800 volunteers throughout Saipan

Last but not the least, the Tasi Watch Community Ranger Program recruits unemployed recent high school graduates and trains them to become community conservation messengers.

Guerrero also implored Chamber members to buy tickets or help sponsor their upcoming MINA Gala, adding that the non-profit is "Sucking on fumes right now as far as keeping the program running is concerned."

MARK RABAGO
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's recently acquired a 3-in-1 Plastic Upcycling Machine that creates products for a myriad of uses for the local community.



MARK RABAGO
MINA 3-in-1 Plastic Upcycling Machine has produced all sort of household products ranging from plastic bowls and strainers, to snack clips, and even Lego-like bricks for children.

MARK RABAGO
MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero served as one of the guest speakers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting last Wednesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Coal miners hail rule to slow rise of black lung

By REBECCA BOONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—A half-century ago, the nation's top health experts urged the federal agency in charge of mine safety to adopt strict rules protecting miners from poisonous rock dust.

The inaction since—fueled by denials and lobbying from coal and other industries—has contributed to the premature deaths of thousands of miners from pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as "black lung." The problem has only grown in recent years as miners dig through more layers of rock to get to less accessible coal, generating deadly silica dust in the process.

One former regulator called the lack of protection from silica-related illnesses "stunning" and one of the most "catastrophic" occupational health failures in U.S. history.

Now the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration has proposed a rule that would cut the current limit for silica exposure in half—a major victory for safety advocates. But there is skepticism and concern about the government following through after years of broken promises and delays.

James Bounds, a retired coal miner from Oak Hill, West Virginia, said nothing can be done to reverse the debilitating illness he was diagnosed with at 37 in 1984. But he doesn't want others to suffer the same fate.

"It's not going to help me—I'm through mining," said Bounds, 75, who now uses supplemental oxygen to breathe. "But we don't want these young kids breathing like we do."

The rule, published in the Federal Register this month, cuts the permissible exposure limit for silica dust from 100 to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air for an 8-hour shift in coal, metal and nonmetal mines such as sand and gravel.

The proposal is in line with exposure levels imposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on construction and other non-mining industries. And it's the standard The Centers for Disease Control was recommending as far back as 1974.

Silicosis is an occupational pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of crystalline silica dust present in minerals like sandstone. The U.S. Department of Labor began studying silica and its impact on workers' health in the 1930s, but the focus on stopping exposure in the workplace largely bypassed coal miners.

Instead, regulations centered on coal dust, a separate hazard created by crushing or pulverizing coal rock that also contributes to black lung.

In the decades since, silica dust has become a major problem as Appalachian miners cut through layers of sandstone to reach less accessible coal seams in mountaintop mines where coal closer to the surface has long been tapped. Silica dust is 20 times more toxic than coal dust and causes severe forms of black lung disease even after a few years of exposure.

Attacks at US medical centers show why health care is one of the nation's most violent fields

By REBECCA BOONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word spread through an Oregon hospital last month that a visitor was causing trouble in the maternity ward, and nurses were warned the man might try to abduct his partner's newborn.

Hours later, the visitor opened fire, killing a security guard and sending patients, nurses and doctors scrambling for cover.

The shooting at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland was part of a wave of gun violence sweeping through U.S. hospitals and medical centers, which have struggled to adapt to the growing threats.

Such attacks have helped make health care one of the nation's most violent fields. Data shows American health care workers now suffer more nonfatal injuries from workplace violence than workers in any other profession, including law enforcement.

"Health care workers don't even think about that when they decide they want to be a nurse or a doctor. But as far as actual violence goes, statistically, health care is four or five times more dangerous than any other profession," said Michael D'Angelo, a former police officer who focuses on health care and workplace violence as a security consultant in Florida.

Other industries outpace heath care for overall danger, including deaths.

Similar shootings have played out in hospitals across the country.

Last year, a man killed two workers at a Dallas hospital while there to watch his child's birth. In May, a man opened fire in a medical center waiting room in Atlanta, killing one woman and wounding four. Late last month, a man shot and wounded a doctor at a health center in Dallas. In June 2022, a gunman killed his surgeon and three other people at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical office because he blamed the doctor for his continuing pain after an operation.

It's not just deadly shootings: Health care workers racked up 73% of all nonfatal workplace violence injuries in 2018, the most recent year for which figures are available, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nation

Biden admin sued for plan to cancel $39B in student loans

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel $39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in Michigan, the groups argue that the administration overstepped its power when it announced the forgiveness in July, just weeks after the Supreme Court struck down a broader cancellation plan pushed by President Joe Biden.

It asks a judge to rule the cancellation illegal and stop the Education Department from carrying it out while the case is decided. The suit was filed by the New Civil Liberties Alliance on behalf of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Cato Institute.

The Education Department called the suit "a desperate attempt from right wing special interests to keep hundreds of thousands of borrowers in debt."

"We are not going to back down or give an inch when it comes to defending working families," the department said in a statement.

It's part of a wave of legal challenges Republicans have leveled at the Biden administration's efforts to reduce or eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. Biden has said he will pursue a different cancellation plan after the Supreme Court decision, and his administration is separately unrolling a more generous repayment plan that opponents call a "backdoor attempt" at cancellation.

The Biden administration announced July 14 that it would soon forgive loans for 804,000 borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans. The plans have long offered cancellation after borrowers make 20 or 25 years of payments, but "past administrative failures" resulted in inaccurate payments counts that set borrowers back on their progress toward forgiveness, the department said.

The new action was announced as a "one-time adjustment" that would count certain periods of past nonpayment as if borrowers had been making payments during that time. It moved 804,000 borrowers across the 20- or 25-year mark needed for cancellation, and it moved millions of others closer to that threshold.

It's meant to address a practice known as forbearance steering, in which student loan servicers hired by the government wrongly pushed borrowers to go into forbearance — a temporary pause on payments because of hardship — even if they would have been better served by enrolling in one of the income-driven repayment plans.

Under the one-time fix, past periods in forbearance were also counted as progress toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a program that offers cancellation after 10 years of payments while working in a government or nonprofit job.

Biden's action was illegal, the lawsuit says, because it wasn't authorized by Congress and didn't go through a federal rulemaking process that invites public feedback.

"No authority allows the Department to count non-payments as payments," the lawsuit says. It adds that the action came in "a press release that neither identified the policy's legal authority nor considered its exorbitant price tag."

The conservative groups say Biden's plan undercuts Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The Mackinac Center and Cato Institute say they employ borrowers who are working toward student loan cancellation through the program. They say Biden's action illegally accelerates progress toward relief, diminishing the benefit for nonprofit employers.

AP

People demonstrate outside the Supreme Court, Friday, June 30, 2023, in Washington. Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel $39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Shooting kills 2 men, woman, wounds 2 others in DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—A shooting on a street in the nation's capital left three people dead and two others hospitalized Saturday night, police said. Officers responded to the sounds of gunshots around 8 p.m. in the 1600 block of Good Hope Road Southeast and found five victims who had been shot. Two men and a woman were pronounced dead at the scene and two men were transported to area hospitals, Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department Acting Chief Pamela Smith said during a news conference at the scene. The conditions of the hospitalized victims were not immediately known. "This kind of gun violence is not acceptable in the District of Columbia. This is not a war zone. We want our residents to feel safe," Smith said. Smith asked for help from the public in collecting information about what she called a disturbing fatal shooting. "We realize that there may be others who may have been injured tonight. We are asking you to come forward," Smith said, adding that the community needs to be involved in stopping the city's violence. "It can't rest upon the metropolitan police department to determine what works and what doesn't work."

Man whose body was found in a barrel in Malibu shot in head

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—A man whose naked body was found inside a barrel in Malibu, California, last week was shot in the head, a coroner has determined. The man was identified Wednesday by the Los Angeles County coroner's office as 32-year-old Javonnta Marshann Murphy but no cause of death was given at the time. The coroner's case information now lists the cause of death as a gunshot wound to the head, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday. The circumstances that led to Murphy being shot and sealed inside a barrel remain under investigation by the Los Angeles County sheriff's office. The 55-gallon (208-liter) black plastic barrel was first spotted July 30 floating in a Malibu lagoon and brought in with a kayak by a maintenance worker, but it was not immediately opened. The Sheriff's Department said the barrel was opened July 31 by a lifeguard at Malibu Lagoon State Beach, who had retrieved it after it washed back into the lagoon.

House fire and reported explosion in Indiana kills 2 and injures another

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind. (AP)—Two people in their 90s died and a third person was injured when a fire and reported explosion destroyed a home in west-central Indiana, authorities said. Crawfordsville Fire Chief Scott Busenbark said crews were called Saturday morning to a house fire and found one person on the home's front lawn. He said the injured person was flown by helicopter to an Indianapolis hospital in stable condition, WXIN-TV reported. Busenbark said first responders who entered the house after the fire was put out found two people dead. The deceased were identified by the Montgomery County Coroner as Richard Chastain, 90, and Marilyn Fox, 91. WISH-TV reported that neighbors told the fire department they heard an explosion about 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The State Fire Marshal is investigating.

Pence, Trump attorney clash over what Trump told his VP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump's defense attorney says the former president never asked Mike Pence to overturn the will of the voters in the 2020 election, but only wanted the former vice president to "pause" the certification of votes to allow states to investigate his claims of election fraud. Those baseless claims had already been rejected by numerous courts.

Speaking on several Sunday morning news shows, Trump attorney John Lauro said Trump was within his First Amendment rights when he petitioned Pence to delay the certification on Jan. 6, 2021.

"The ultimate ask of Vice President Pence was to pause the counts and allow the states to weigh in," Lauro said on CBS' "Face the Nation." He added that Trump was convinced there were irregularities in the election that needed to be investigated by state authorities before the election could be certified.

The former president on Sunday also lashed out at the judge overseeing the case, U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan. On his Truth Social platform, Trump said his legal team would be "immediately asking for recusal of this judge," as well as to move the case outside of Washington.

The pronouncements were Trump's latest legal wrangling, made in full public view, as he faces charges that could carry decades in prison if he is convicted.

Trump pleaded not guilty to those charges. Separately, he also faces charges that he falsified business records relating to hush money payments to a porn actor in New York and improperly kept classified documents at his Palm Beach, Florida, resort and obstructed an investigation into their handling.

Last week's indictment chronicles how Trump and his allies, in what special counsel Jack Smith described as an attack on a "bedrock function of the U.S. government," repeatedly lied about the results in the two months after he lost the election and pressured Pence and state election officials to take action to help him cling to power. Those efforts culminated on Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump supporters violently stormed the Capitol in an effort to stop the certification.

Speaking on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," Lauro said Pence's testimony will show Trump believed the election was rigged and that he was listening to the advice of his attorneys when he sought to delay the certification. Pence, who appeared before the grand jury that indicted Trump, said he will comply with the law if asked to testify.

"I cannot wait until I have the opportunity to cross examine Mr. Pence," Lauro said. "He will completely eliminate any doubt that President Trump firmly believed that the election irregularities had led to an inappropriate result."

Pence, who like Trump is seeking the Republican nomination for president in 2024, flatly rejected that Trump was merely seeking a certification "pause" during an interview Sunday, saying Trump seemed "convinced" as early as December that Pence had the right to reject or return votes and that on Jan. 5, Trump's attorneys told him "'We want you to reject votes outright."

"They were asking me to overturn the election. I had no right to overturn the election," Pence said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Pence's role in certifying Joe Biden's win over Trump in the 2020 election makes him a central figure in the prosecution against Trump on charges that he sought to overturn the will of the voters and remain in office even after the courts had roundly rejected his claims of electoral fraud. Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general also had said there were was no credible evidence the election was tainted.

The 45-page indictment details how people close to Trump repeatedly told him he had lost and that there was no truth to his claims of fraud. In one encounter days before the riot, Trump told Pence he was "too honest" after the vice president said he didn't have the authority to reject electoral votes, the indictment says.

Former allies of Trump have said Trump knew he lost but spread false claims about fraud anyway. After he failed to convince state officials to illegally swing the election, Trump and his allies recruited fake electors in swing states to sign certificates falsely stating Trump had prevailed.

"He knew well that he had lost the election," Trump's former Attorney General Bill Barr told CNN last week.

World

Russia unleashes missile and drone strikes against Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia unleashed a missile and drone barrage Sunday across parts of Ukraine that killed six people, Kyiv officials said, as Moscow followed through on its promise to retaliate for an attack on a Russian tanker.

Separately, Moscow's second-largest airport briefly suspended flights early Sunday following a foiled drone attack near the Russian capital.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 70 drones and missiles from aircraft over the Caspian Sea, including Iranian-made, Shahed-136/131 strike UAVs.

Three waves of missiles hit the Starokostiantyniv area, damaging several buildings and igniting a fire at a warehouse, said Serhiy Tyurin, deputy head of Ukraine's Khmelnytsky region military administration. The strike may have been intended for the city's airfield, officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the facilities of aircraft engine manufacturer Motor Sich in the Zaporizhzhia region had also come under attack.

The Russian barrage followed a Ukrainian drone attack on a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea late Friday. Ukraine also struck a major Russian port with drones earlier the same day.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova condemned what she called a Ukrainian "terrorist attack" on a civilian vessel in the Kerch Strait.

"There can be no justification for such barbaric actions, they will not go unanswered and their authors and perpetrators will inevitably be punished," she posted on the Telegram messaging app.

An official with Ukraine's Security Service confirmed to The Associated Press that a Ukrainian drone packed with 450 kilograms (992 pounds) of explosives struck the tanker that was transporting fuel for Russian forces. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

Russia's Federal Agency for Marine and River Transport posted on Telegram that although the drone blasted a hole in the tanker's engine room, there were no casualties among the 11 crew members. On Sunday, a Ukrainian missile hit the Chonhar bridge connecting the Russian-occupied Kherson region and northern Crimea, causing minor damage to the span's roadway, said Vladimir Saldo, the Moscow-installed leader of the Kherson region. He also said several more rockets had been shot down by air defense forces.

The bridge, which is one of three key spans connecting the Crimean Peninsula to the mainland, was previously attacked on July 22 and July 29.

Two of the six killed overnight occurred during a Russian airstrike in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, according to the head of the local regional military administration, Oleh Syniehubov. Four others were injured.

Zelenskyy said a guided bomb had hit a blood transfusion center in the area's Kupyan district late on Saturday.

"This war crime alone says everything about Russian aggression," Zelenskyy wrote on social media. "Defeating terrorists is a matter of honor for everyone who values life."

Express train derails in Pakistan, killing 30 and injuring 90 plus

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—Ten cars of a passenger train derailed in southern Pakistan on Sunday, killing 30 people and injuring more than 90 others, officials said.

Some of the derailed cars on the Hazara Express train overturned in the crash near the town of Nawabshah, senior railway officer Mahmoodur Rehman Lakho said. The train was going from Karachi to Rawalpindi when the 10 cars went off the tracks near the Sarhari railway station.

The derailed cars sprawled across or near the tracks in the flat, rural landscape. Local television showed rescue teams extracting women, children and elderly passengers from damaged and overturned cars. Some of the injured lay on the ground crying for help while locals gave out water and food.

Senior police officer Abid Baloch said from the scene that the rescue operation was complete by early evening: Dozens of the injured were brought to safety and the last flipped car cleared.

Expressing grief over the loss of life, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif prayed during a political gathering in Punjab for the souls of the departed and for the quick recovery of those injured.

"We all pray, may Allah grant a place in heaven to those who passed away and I wish quick recovery for the injured," he said.

Lakho, who is in charge of railways in the accident area, said rescue crews took injured passengers to the People's Hospital in Nawabshah.

Ihtesham Ali lost his family members and was looking for them in the chaotic situation. "Seven members of my family and 22 from my neighborhood were missing and so far we found only four of them, rest are still missing."

Mohsin Sayal, another senior railway officer, said train traffic was suspended on the main line as repair trains were dispatched to the scene. Sayal said alternative travel arrangements and medical care would be made available for the train's passengers.

All trains in both directions were held at the nearest stations till the tracks could be cleared, while all departures were delayed. Passengers at Karachi station complained that they were waiting in hope as railway authorities kept changing departure times.

Owais Iqbal, a Lahore bound passenger at Karachi railway station said: "Our train was to depart at 5 p.m. Now we have been told that it will leave at 8 p.m. It may even get later. We are waiting. We are suffering because of the poor railway system."

Minister for Railways Khwaja Saad Rafiq said an investigation into the cause of the crash was underway.

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE
OF OUR BELOVED

William Ingereklii Cabrera

Fondly known as "Bill"
February 10,1964 – August 3, 2023

In his Eternal Life, he now joins his:

Parents: William M. Cabrera & Sabina I. Cabrera
Grandparents: August P. Cabrera & Matilde M. Cabrera
Brother: Eustace Ingereklii
Sister: Florinda "Tunda" I. Cabrera & Baby Willani Jahnaiya
Common Law Spouse: Jane M. Kintaro

He will be remembered in the hearts of his:

Son & Grandchildren
Vladimir K. & Alysia A. Cabrera
Journey, Zoe, and Kyro

Sisters & Brother
Charlette C. Manny A. Borja
Willdrow & Mary Lou (Leyanna & Tae (SaRai, NyLani & Saniyah), Willtun & Hannah (Emberly), Leilani, and Wil-Leina), Nathan, Kyle, and Chelsea & Alan (Leland)

Sylvia I. Cabrera & James Weakly
Willaine (Cody, Chris Allen, Willani, Cannibis, Kingston), Nicole & Brandone (Kaeden & Sophia), Janelle & Joe (Sebastian), and Chardonney & Alex (Damian)

Jessia I. Cabrera & Aquinaldo P. Aquino
William, Jacob & Angel, Joevaughn, and Quianna

Joan C. & Claver Filibert
Ayela & D'Chine (Ella), W.Liam, and Arenka

†**Florinda "Tunda" I. Cabrera** & †Baby Willani Jahnaiya
Kaiya Journey

Evangeline I. Register
Shaun Register

Euginia I. & Roger Obakrairur
Lolemei & Brandon (Carter, Madeline, & Avery), Roger Jr. Ashley (Katelaya, Keynai, & Kaylani), Franette & Sal (Aiden, Allan, & Arthaniel), Roni (Julissa), Ronalette (Adrian), and Rioni

Karla C. & Vincent Marehem
Luke & Maria (Tayvon, Rayven, & Luke Jr.), Zoe & Walton, Jake, Laura, and Andrew

Sherry Manibusan

Joseph & Rose Sablan
†Joselyn, Eric & Kiana (†Eriana), Keith & Rose, AJ, and Sasha

He is survived by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and frriends.

Forever in our Hearts

Eucharistic celebration is offered daily at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00 p.m. from August 3 to 11, 2023. Saturday, August 12, 2023, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:45 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Sulang
Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort are sincerely appreciated.

From the Family

Overdrive

2023 Toyota Camry coasts on the expected

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

Americans love the expected. It's why we eat white bread, American cheese and vanilla ice cream. It's why white remains America's top interior paint color, even if white is technically the absence of color and therefore not a color. And it's why the Toyota Camry has been the best-selling sedan in America for 24 out of the last 25 years.

Clearly, this car is aptly named. Camry is an anglicization of the Japanese word kanmuri, meaning crown, and the Toyota Camry has long worn the stateside sales crown, outliving many American competitors, of which the oft-forgotten (even by GM) Chevrolet Malibu is the sole survivor. The Camry remains the best-selling sedan in America last year and the fifth best-selling vehicle overall.

The current Camry debuted for the 2018 model year, with a mild styling update for 2021. While a more extensive makeover is due for 2025, online reports suggest that it will remain on the current TNGA-K platform.

As before, Toyota's midsize sedan is available as either a conventional sedan or a gas-electric Hybrid in ascending entry-level LE and sporty SE variants, as well as upscale XLE (added comfort) and XSE (enhanced sportiness) trim. Toyota provided an SE Hybrid with the Nightshade Package, which adds bronze wheels that handsomely offset the Camry's trendy Dark Blue paint and black trim.

Otherwise, there's much that's familiar when it comes to its wardrobe, which still sports its distinctive appearance and looking best in darker colors.

TOYOTA
The 2024 Toyota Camry.

There's little that's changed inside as well, as a fair bit of hard plastic survives throughout the cabin, even on the center console where the driver's right leg rests. More padding is needed, although its adequate on the upper part of the instrument panel, where attractive stitching serves as an eye-catching visual counterpoint.

The seating position is low, but not as low as some competitors, and proves to be fairly comfortable, with a perfectly placed dead pedal on the left side, and easy-to-reach controls throughout. Outward visibility is very good, as is headroom.

The tech package is fairly good considering the current model's age. Wired Android Auto and Apple CarPlay come standard, as does a Wi-Fi hotspot. Base LE models get a 7-inch infotainment touchscreen, while a 9-inch screen elsewhere, even though it feels small compared to newer rivals. It's framed by buttons for shortcuts to certain functions, such as the phone. A Qi wireless phone charging pad is available, otherwise, you're stuck using USB ports.

The powertrain lineup remains unchanged as well, with base models getting a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and an eight-speed automatic transmission providing 203-horsepower to the front wheels. Power is adequate at best, and fuel economy is good at 32 mpg in combined city/highway driving, according to the EPA. You can choose all-

wheel drive, but it reduces fuel economy to 28 mpg.

Opting for a Hybrid brings similar power, in this case 208 horsepower, while markedly improving on the fuel economy numbers. The LE Hybrid returns an astonishing 52 mpg in combined driving according to Uncle Sam, noticeably better than the SE, XSE and XLE Hybrids' still-impressive rating of 46 mpg. The difference is undoubtedly a difference in tires, as all 2023 Camry Hybrids use lithium-ion batteries. All-wheel drive is not offered.

Comparing the fuel economy of the LE to the LE Hybrid brings a Hybrid fuel savings of $650. Given the LE Hybrid's $2,135 higher starting price, it takes a little more than three-and-a-quarter years to break even with an LE buyer.

If that doesn't excite you, try the optional 301-horsepower V-6 in the Camry XLE or XSE. It's as much fun as you'll have in a Camry. Of course, that's still relative. Even at its sportiest, you will never consider the Camry a sports sedan. But that's OK, for that's not what Camry buyers expect.

Yet it proves to be a solid performer. Still, if you're going to put up with the base vehicle's unremarkable power, at least choose the Hybrid and get incredible fuel economy and a far quieter driveline. Besides, the steering has some weight to it when cornering, and the Camry's brake pedal is responsive, not mushy imparting driver confidence. Even the Hybrids' continuously variable transmission seems well-behaved. But there's no driving joy in Mudville, only stoic dependability.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price**: $30,615
- **Powertrain**: 2.5-liter four-cylinder gas-electric hybrid
- **Horsepower:** 208
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway)**: 44/47 mpg
- **Observed fuel economy**: 40 mpg
- **Fuel required**: 87 Octane
- **Length/Width/Height**: 192.7/72.4/56.9 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 5.7 inches
- **Cargo capacity**: 15.1 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity**: 00 pounds

Sometimes, truck just wants to be taken for a ride

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: The service engine light came on in my truck, then next day off, then on again. My mechanic checked it out and up came a code he had never seen. He looks it up and it states engine has not been running enough to perform computer check. He took it out for a long ride, checked again, and it was OK. Yes, I live in a retirement home and I'm an 81-year-old former shade tree mechanic. I guess I need to drive it more.

K.B., Crete, Illinois

A: You guessed right. Sometimes there is a pending code. It may occur if there was an intermittent problem seen by the computer. Occasionally driving the vehicle a few times may clear the pending code. Sometimes the vehicle must be driven in both city and highway trips including slowing and accelerating.

■■■

Q: I usually change my own oil on my 2004 Toyota Tundra (mileage 95,000) but went to the local Toyota dealer to have this done in conjunction with other minor work. I requested high-mileage oil. The dealership service department said that it's really a gimmick to extract more money from customers They installed the standard full synthetic 5W-30. Obviously, no harm was done, but I had never heard such a comment, and from a Toyota service department, no less.

J.B., La Fox, Illinois

A: They don't stock it. You got a song and dance about the oil being a gimmick. Older engines may have seals and gaskets that are less pliable than new and may benefit from the additive packages in high-mileage oils.

■■■

Q: I have a 2022 Kia Niro Hybrid with 22,000 miles on it. The engine light came on with a message to check the active air flap system. We are going to have a new one put in, but the dealer says this may have happened because of an accident we were in several months ago. Does it make sense that this system malfunctioned so long after the accident and why would the repair shop not have found it back then? Your help is appreciated.

J.F. , Chicopee, Massachusetts

A: The active air flap is normally open until the vehicle reaches a set speed. If it were damaged during an accident, it would not have worked for long. A foreign object getting stuck in it may have caused the problem.

■■■

Q: I have a 2012 Toyota Highlander Limited (only 45,000 miles) and my electronic key fob is going out. The dealer wants $700 to fix this, which I think is high.

B.K. Edina, Minnesota

A: The replacement price you were quoted sounds a bit high. However, the key must also be programmed and cut. Call a couple other Toyota dealers as well as some locksmiths. But you may only need a new battery for the key fob. The batteries are cheap.

■■■

Q: I have a 2019 Kia Sportage with around 50,000 miles. Is there something I can do to reduce the road noise? It drowns out the radio unless I really turn up the volume.

F.K., Chicago

A: Road noise is almost always caused by tires. At 50,000 miles they are approaching the end of life. They may also be worn unevenly. Tire makers offer a wide selection including tires that are low on noise. Touring tires may be what you need. If you also want a bit more performance, select a grand touring tire.

Life & Style

Musk says his cage fight with Zuckerberg will be streamed on X

NEW YORK (AP)—Elon Musk says his potential in-person fight with Mark Zuckerberg would be streamed on his social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

The two tech billionaires seemingly agreed to a "cage match" face-off in late June. Zuckerberg is actually trained in mixed martial arts, and the CEO of Facebook's parent company Meta posted about completing his first jiu jitsu tournament earlier this year.

"Zuck v Musk fight will be live-streamed on X," Musk wrote in a post Sunday on the platform. "All proceeds will go to charity for veterans."

On his Threads social media account, Zuckerberg responded: "Shouldn't we use a more reliable platform that can actually raise money for charity?"

Musk said earlier Sunday he was training for the fight by lifting weights.

"Don't have time to work out, so I just bring them to work," Musk wrote.

Zuckerberg replied on Threads: "I'm ready today. I suggested Aug 26 when he first challenged, but he hasn't confirmed. Not holding my breath. I love this sport and will continue competing with people who train no matter what happens here."

Zuckerberg

Musk

Whether or not Musk and Zuckerberg actually make it to the ring in Las Vegas has yet to be seen—especially as Musk often tweets about action prematurely or without following through. But even if their cage match agreement is all a joke, the banter has gained attention.

It all started when Musk, who owns X, responded to a tweet about Meta preparing to release a new Twitter rival called Threads. He took a dig about the world becoming "exclusively under Zuck's thumb with no other options"—but then one Twitter user jokingly warned Musk of Zuckerberg's jiu jitsu training.

"I'm up for a cage match if he is lol," Musk wrote.

Representatives of X, Meta and Ultimate Fighting Championship, which owns the venue where the fight might take place, didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Musk's push to stream the video live on X comes as he aims to turn the platform into a "digital town square." However, his much-publicized Twitter Spaces kickoff event in May with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announcing his run for president struggled with technical glitches and a near half-hour delay.

Musk had said the problems were due to "straining" servers because so many people were trying to listen to the audio-only event. But even at their highest, the number of listeners listed topped out at around 420,000, far from the millions of viewers that televised presidential announcements attract.

'Barbie' joins $1B club, breaks another record

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Greta Gerwig should be feeling closer to fine these days. In just three weeks in theaters, "Barbie" is set to sail past $1 billion in global ticket sales, breaking a record for female directors that was previously held by Patty Jenkins, who helmed "Wonder Woman."

"Barbie," which Gerwig directed and co-wrote, added another $53 million from 4,178 North American locations this weekend and $74 million internationally, bringing its global total to $1.03 billion, according to studio estimates on Sunday. The Margot Robbie-led and produced film has been comfortably seated in first place for three weeks and it's hardly finished yet. It crossed $400 million domestic and $500 million internationally faster than any other movie at the studio, including the Harry Potter films.

"As distribution chiefs, we're not often rendered speechless by a film's performance, but Barbillion has blown even our most optimistic predictions out of the water," said Jeff Goldstein and Andrew Cripps, who oversee domestic and international distribution for the studio, in a joint statement.

In modern box office history, just 53 movies have made over $1 billion, not accounting for inflation, and "Barbie" is now the biggest to be directed by one woman, supplanting "Wonder Woman's" $821.8 million global total. Three movies that were co-directed by women are still ahead of "Barbie," including "Frozen" ($1.3 billion) and "Frozen 2" ($1.45 billion) both co-directed by Jennifer Lee and "Captain Marvel" ($1.1 billion), co-directed by Anna Boden. But, "Barbie" has passed "Captain Marvel" domestically with $459.4 million (versus $426.8 million), thereby claiming the North American record for live-action movies directed by women.

Warner Bros. co-chairs and CEOs Michael De Luca and Pam Abdy also praised Gerwig in a statement and said the milestone, "is testament to her brilliance and to her commitment to deliver a movie that Barbie fans of every age want to see on the big screen."

New competition came this weekend in the form of the animated, PG-rated "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" and the Jason Statham shark sequel, "Meg 2: The Trench," both of which were neck-in-neck with Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," also in its third weekend, for the second-place spot.

"Meg 2" managed to sneak ahead and land in second place. It overcame its abysmal reviews to score a $30 million opening weekend from 3,503 locations. The Warner Bros. release, directed by Ben Wheatley, currently has a 29% critics' score on Rotten Tomatoes and a B-CinemaScore from audiences. The thriller was released in 3D, which accounted for 22% of its first weekend business.

Third place went to "Oppenheimer," which added $28.7 million from 3,612 locations in North America, bringing its domestic total to $228.6 million. In just three weeks, the J. Robert Oppenheimer biopic starring Cillian Murphy has become the highest grossing R-rated film of the year (ahead of "John Wick Chapter 4") and the sixth-biggest of the year overall, surpassing "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania."

"Oppenheimer" also celebrated a landmark, crossing $500 million globally in three weeks. Its worldwide tally is currently $552.9 million, which puts it ahead of "Dunkirk," which clocked out with $527 million in 2017, and has become Nolan's fifth-biggest movie ever. It's also now among the four top grossing biographies ever (company includes "Bohemian Rhapsody," "The Passion of the Christ" and "American Sniper") and the biggest World War II movie of all time.

Paramount's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" was close behind in fourth place with an estimated $28 million from 3,858 theaters in North America. Since opening on Wednesday, the film, which is riding on excellent reviews (96% on Rotten Tomatoes) and audience scores, has earned $43.1 million.

"This is one of those movies that is a multigenerational joy," said Chris Aronson, Paramount's president of domestic distribution. "I think the endurring popularity of 'Turtles' is showing its true colors. And there hasn't been an animated film in eight weeks and there won't be another for eight weeks which is great for us."

"Turtles" cost $70 million to produce and features a starry voice cast that includes Jackie Chan, Ice Cube, Paul Rudd, Ayo Edebiri and Seth Rogen, who produced and co-wrote the film, which leans into the "teenage" aspect of the turtles.

"Barbie," "Oppenheimer" and even the surprise, anti-trafficking hit "Sound of Freedom" (now at $163.5 million and ahead of "Mission: Impossible 7") have helped fuel a boom at the box office, bringing in many millions more than was expected and helping to offset pains caused by some summer disappointments.

"After 'The Flash,' 'Indiana Jones' and, to a certain extent, 'Mission: Impossible,' people were saying the summer was a disappointment. But it's not over yet," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "We're going to have a summer that is going to go out on a high note."

But the moment of triumph for the industry will likely be short lived if the studios can't reach an agreement with striking actors and writers soon. The fall release calendar has already gotten slimmer, with some studios pushing films into 2024 instead of trying to promote them without movie stars.

- "Barbie," $53 million.
- "Meg 2: The Trench," $30 million.
- "Oppenheimer," $28.7 million.
- "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," $28 million.
- "Haunted Mansion," $9 million.
- "Sound of Freedom," $7 million.
- "Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part I," $6.5 million.
- "Talk to Me," $6.3 million.
- "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani," $1.5 million.
- "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," $1.5 million.

Husband's motorcycle yen has mom of three worried

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have three children, and I feel really lucky to be able to stay home with them. I appreciate how hard my husband works so that I can do this. Our kids are young, so we are in a somewhat tedious season of life, without a lot of rest. But it's just a season, and it's already going by so fast.

Recently, my husband became interested in motorcycles and bought a nice vintage one. I was fine with it because he rides it only in our neighborhood, and it isn't very fast. I understand he needs an outlet and I want him to have a hobby, but I wish it wasn't motorcycles.

He now wants to buy a "real" motorcycle he can ride on the highway. I think motorcycles are dangerous, and I would be absolutely devastated if anything happened to my husband. I shared my feelings with him, and he said he would hold off on buying another one right now. But he often watches videos of motorcycles, and I feel bad for squashing his dream. Am I overreacting about the danger? I just think it's irresponsible when we have a young family and so much at stake. Plus, I love him with all my heart.

SCARED OF SPEED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR SCARED: I understand your concerns, and they are not unfounded. There are risks involved in motorcycling. However, there are motorcycle clubs for adults who love to ride, whose members wear appropriate clothing and helmets and ride as a group, which lessens the risk. Regarding the risks faced by irresponsible motorcyclists, I will never forget the response I received from the director of an organ donation network years ago when I asked who he thought was the "ideal" organ donor. He didn't hesitate and replied, "A 19-year-old male on a motorcycle."

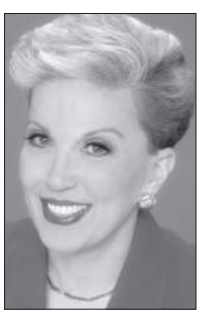
■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a friend I'll call "Penny." They have known each other for decades and are very close. Penny is married to a wonderful man.

Recently, Penny got in touch with her high school prom date, "Gary," and they had lunch. Things got steamy, but they stopped before doing anything too physical. In need of counsel, Penny told my husband all the details. Now, out of the blue, we have received a birthday party invitation for Gary to be held at Penny's home. My husband and I feel uncomfortable meeting him for the first time in this way because we are good friends with Penny's husband. Should we go to the party and play dumb, or send our regrets, as we have no desire to meet this man at all?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

PARTY POOPER IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR PARTY POOPER: No rule of etiquette decrees that you must accept every invitation you receive. If you would feel uncomfortable at the party, send your regrets.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

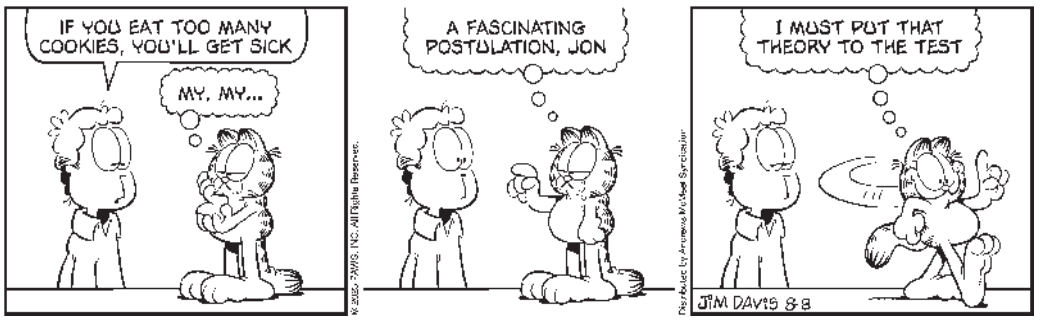
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHY ISN'T SUSIE PICKING UP THE CODED MESSAGE?? DOESN'T SHE SEE IT??
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?? DOESN'T SHE KNOW ENOUGH TO INTERCEPT SOMEBODY ELSE'S SECRET LETTER WHEN IT'S DROPPED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER??
MAYBE SHE WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO US.
THAT'S INCONCEIVABLE! WHO WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING WE DO??

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


IF YOU EAT TOO MANY COOKIES, YOU'LL GET SICK
MY, MY...
A FASCINATING POSTULATION, JON
I MUST PUT THAT THEORY TO THE TEST
JIM DAVIS 8-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY SCARED OF ROLLER COASTERS?
IT'S A LOGICAL FEAR, SON.
FOR STARTERS, IT'S FALSE ADVERTISING. COASTERS?
THEY DON'T COAST AT ALL! THERE'S NOTHING COAST-Y ABOUT THEM!
DAD.
WHAT ELSE ARE THEY LYING ABOUT? DO THEY ACTUALLY ROLL??

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SAYS A MAN'S TESTOSTERONE LEVEL DROPS AS HE AGES.
HMM...
I'LL BET THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BET?
HOW ABOUT MY NEW BARBIE DREAMHOUSE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

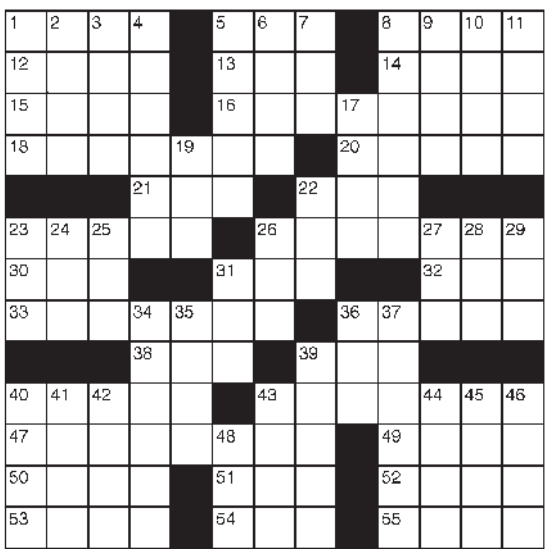
ACROSS
1 Emmy-winning Tyne
5 Sashimi fish
8 Caesar's "Behold!"
12 Jai —
13 French diarist Anais
14 Thwart
15 Buckle
16 Art form that's one of hip-hop's four elements
18 Try to deal (with)
20 Haunting
21 Shoe width
22 Catchall abbr.
23 Sea critter
26 Please
30 Whitman of "Good Girls"
31 Airline to Sweden
32 Briny expanse
33 Awards with a "Best Rap Performance" category
36 Alison Brie's "Mad Men" role
38 Oft-pierced body part
39 Japanese sash
40 "Papa" of classical music
43 Seriousness
47 Slope
49 Buffalo's lake
50 Healthy
51 — -jongg
52 Funny Fey
53 Harvard rival
54 — Jima
55 Swift jets

DOWN
1 Deputy — (cartoon canine)
2 Winged
3 Croft of video games
4 "Hooray!"
5 Pro-tractor measure
6 Employ
7 Chef Garten
8 Result
9 Coconut fiber
10 New York's — Field
11 Writer Wiesel
17 Greek salad cheese
19 Part of MPH
22 Triage ctrs.
23 Texter's "Heavens!"
24 Pitch
25 Earl Grey, e.g.
26 Petrol
27 Terre Haute sch.
28 Nourished
29 "Rah!"
31 Damascus is its cap.
34 Butt in
35 — -pedi
36 TV guide abbr.
37 Transfixes
39 Lawn care brand
40 Rd. with multiple lanes
41 Bailiwick
42 Informal pronoun
43 Chew (on)
44 Spring flower
45 Shade
46 Pro votes
48 U.K. recording label

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	T	A	B		A	B	S		S	C	O	T
C	O	C	A		R	C	A		A	A	R	E
O	M	A	R		M	C	H	A	M	M	E	R
W	E	I	R	D	O		L	I	S	B	O	N
			E	R	R	S		M	O	O		
T	O	E	N	A	I	L	S		N	D	A	S
U	R	L		B	E	E	T	S		I	N	T
B	L	O	G		S	E	A	P	L	A	N	E
		Q	U	O		I	M	E	E			
B	R	U	I	S	E		T	W	A	N	G	S
E	Y	E	L	E	V	E	L		N	O	R	A
T	E	N	D		A	L	E		T	O	O	N
S	S	I	S		N	O	S		O	R	G	S

Yesterday's answer 8-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Casey Cott, 31; Countess Vaughn, 45; Joely Collins, 51; Dustin Hoffman, 86.

Happy Birthday: Trust yourself, and you won't be disappointed. Build a solid base and clear any influences that are inconsistent or causing doubt. Leave nothing to chance and oversee everything that has meaning to you. Don't fear the unknown; ask questions and map out a course to help you achieve your dreams. Protect your heart, health and happiness from anyone trying to lure you down the wrong path. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 27, 32, 35, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do something that will rejuvenate you or help you build confidence. Practice makes perfect, and once you choose a course of action, you will find it easier to look forward instead of living in the past. Recognize your skills and add to your qualifications. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your eye on the ball and the money in your wallet. Overreaction or poor behavior will cost you. Use your intelligence, courage and strength of character, and you will bypass making a mistake. Control your emotions and secure your position. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You must navigate through situations quietly. Execute intentions with stamina and finesse. Your actions will stand out, positioning you for bigger and better things. Trust and believe in yourself, and so will everyone else. Personal gain and self-improvement are apparent. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Listen to your heart, not to someone trying to change your mind or take advantage of you. Speak up in your defense, and align yourself with those with something worthwhile to contribute to your end game. Learn from experience, and opportunity will follow. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Tidy up loose ends that can potentially set you back. Rethink your lifestyle and pay more attention to how you present yourself to others. Be a leader, and you'll discourage anyone trying to throw you off your game. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Say what's on your mind, ask questions and protect yourself from being misled. Elaborate, but do not make promises you can't deliver. A change that improves your health and emotional well-being will help you distance yourself from temptation. Lead the way. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Tagging along with someone funny, endearing and helpful will increase your awareness regarding how to make your life better. Enrich your lifestyle by saying no to whatever and whoever tries to dominate you and your choices. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll encounter exciting people, places and pastimes. Use your intelligence to market yourself, and a positive turn of events will unfold. Interviews, updating your skills or sending out your resume will point you in a new and exciting direction. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* What you do counts. You can talk all you want, but you will fall by the wayside, and your skills and talents will go to waste, unless you act. Actions speak louder than words; do your part, and don't look back. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look over your finances and contracts and see where you stand. Don't let anything expire or leave you without a safety net. Look for investment opportunities, but don't take on a financial burden. Keep life simple, healthy and affordable. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stop worrying about the decisions others make. Say no to anyone trying to waste your time or take advantage of what you have to offer. Someone will use compliments to tempt you into taking on too much. Nurture your relationship and protect your heart. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to those you know and what you do best. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you financially. Play to win, and use your skills in a unique manner that targets trends and puts you a step ahead of the competition. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, influential and detailed. You are passionate and dynamic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			9	8	5		4	1
	8	6	1			2		9
		5				3	7	8
		7					2	
	4			5	1		8	
5				2		4	9	
			3	9				4
			4				1	
8	6		5	1		9	3	

Difficulty: ★★ 8/8

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	7	1	8	2	3	6	5	4
6	2	8	5	9	4	3	7	1
5	3	4	7	1	6	2	9	8
8	6	7	9	4	5	1	3	2
2	1	9	3	8	7	4	6	5
3	4	5	1	6	2	9	8	7
1	8	3	4	5	9	7	2	6
4	9	6	2	7	8	5	1	3
7	5	2	6	3	1	8	4	9

Difficulty: ★ 8/7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PICKLING SEASON IS APPROACHING **Solution: 7 letters**

P	E	P	P	E	R	C	O	R	N	E	D	R	A	G
U	E	L	P	P	A	E	N	I	P	L	U	M	L	R
N	A	V	R	E	T	S	E	Z	E	M	I	L	E	A
G	S	E	P	E	A	R	I	E	S	N	I	R	E	P
E	P	T	V	R	D	C	C	N	I	D	H	E	P	E
N	A	R	N	O	I	I	H	H	E	E	A	C	E	S
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US loses to Sweden on penalty kicks in earliest exit ever

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The United States played its best game of this Women's World Cup and it wasn't good enough to stop the two-time reigning champions from being eliminated in the round of 16.

The Americans' bid to win an unprecedented third consecutive title ended Sunday on penalty kicks. It is the earliest exit in tournament history for the United States, four-time winners of the World Cup.

Megan Rapinoe, Sophia Smith and Kelley O'Hara missed with kicks from the penalty spot before Lina Hurtig converted to clinch the shootout 5-4 as Sweden knocked the United States out of the World Cup after a scoreless draw in regulation and extra time.

The Americans controlled the shootout until the trio of misses.

"I mean, this is like a sick joke. For me personally, this is like dark comedy that I missed a penalty," Rapinoe said as she blinked back tears. "This is the balance to the beautiful side of the game. I think it can be cruel."

U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher fruitlessly argued she had saved Hurtig's attempt, but it was ruled over the line by VAR. The stadium played Abba's "Dancing Queen" in the stadium as the Swedes celebrated and the U.S. players sobbed.

"We just lost the World Cup by a millimeter. That's tough," said Naeher, who successfully converted her own penalty kick. "I am proud of the fight of the team. We knew we hadn't done our best in the group stage and we wanted a complete team performance and the team came out and played great."

She praised Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic, who had 11 saves to deny the U.S. a spot in the quarterfinals. The American's worst previous finish had been third place, three different times.

"We didn't put anything in the back of the net," sobbed Julie Ertz after the loss. "The penalties were tough. It's just emotional because it's probably my last game ever. It's just tough. It obviously sucks. Penalties are the worst."

The loss was somewhat expected based on the Americans' listless play through three group-stage matches. But they played their best game of this World Cup against Sweden, only to have it decided by penalties.

"I am proud of the women on the field," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "I know we were criticized for the way we played, and for different moments in the group stage. I think we came out today and showed the grit, the resilience, the fight. The bravery showed we did everything we could to win the game. And, unfortunately, soccer can be cruel sometimes."

It was the fourth time the Americans went to extra time at the World Cup. All three previous matches went to penalties, including the 2011 final won by Japan. The U.S. won on penalties in a 2011 quarterfinal match against Brazil, and in the 1999 final at the Rose Bowl against China.

Sweden knocked the United States out of the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals on penalties.

Sweden goes on to the quarterfinals to play Japan, which beat Norway 3-1 on Saturday night.

Sweden has never won a major global tournament, either the World Cup or the Olympics. The closest the team has come is World Cup runner-up in 2003. They placed third in the 1999, 2011 and 2019 editions, and won silver medals in the last two Olympics.

The result ended the international career of Rapinoe, the Golden Boot winner of the 2019 tournament who is retiring after the World Cup. She had taken on a smaller role in her final tournament and was a substitute in the United States' first and third games of group play.

She went on in extra time against Sweden and in her final game and few minutes of action, she failed to control a ball played in deep, whiffed on a rebound, hit the side of the net with a corner kick and then missed the penalty that would have put the United States on the verge of victory.

"Just devastated. It feels like a bad dream," captain Alex Morgan said. "The team put everything out there tonight. I feel like we dominated, but it doesn't matter. We're going home and it's the highs and lows of the sport of soccer. So, yeah, it doesn't feel great."

The Americans struggled through group play with just four goals in three matches. They were nearly eliminated last Tuesday by first-timers Portugal, but eked out a 0-0 draw to fall to second in their group for just the second time at a World Cup.

The Americans looked far better against Sweden, dominating possession and outshooting the Swedes 5-1 in the first half. Lindsey Horan's first-half header hit the crossbar and a second-half blast was saved by goalkeeper Musovic, who had six saves in regulation.

Sweden won all three of their group games, including a 5-0 rout of Italy in its final group match. Coach Peter Gerhardsson made nine lineup changes for the match, resting his starters in anticipation of the United States.

"They will come back for sure, they have so much quality on their team," Sweden midfielder Kosovare Asllani said of the U.S. team. "This defeat will not take them down. I expect them to be ready for the next World Cup."

It was tense from the opening whistle.

Naeher punched the ball away from a crowded goal on an early Sweden corner kick. Three of the Swedes' goals against Italy came on set pieces.

Trinity Rodman's shot from distance in the 18th minute was easily caught by Musovic, who stopped another chance by Rodman in the 27th.

Horan's header off Andi Sullivan's corner in the 34th hit the crossbar and skipped over the goal. Horan was on target in the 53rd minute but Musovic pushed it wide. Horan crouched to the field in frustration while the Sweden keeper was swarmed by her teammates.

"I had a really good feeling before the game," Musovic said. "Once again, I'm extremely proud of the girls. Many people out there didn't think that (win) was possible."

AP

Sweden's team celebrate after defeating the United States in a penalty shootout in their Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023.

NETHERLANDS 2, SOUTH AFRICA 0

SYDNEY (AP)—Netherlands had just advanced to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup, yet star midfielder Danielle van de Donk looked inconsolable.

Her yellow card in the second half of the 2-0 win over South Africa on Sunday means she will serve a one-match suspension. Her tears were likely in realization that she may have played her final match of the tournament if the Dutch lose to Spain in the quarterfinals.

But Netherlands coach Andries Jonker had no time for any negativity.

"We've come with the conviction that we can beat everybody. And if you say we can beat everybody, it includes all teams, South Africa, but also Spain," he said. "So it means it's not the last game for Danielle. We want to beat Spain, then she can come back into the tournament."

The Dutch certainly appear to be contenders again after losing to the United States in the World Cup final four years ago.

After finishing above the Americans in Group E this time, they overcame South Africa at Sydney Football Stadium through goals from Jill Roord in the first half and Lineth Beerensteyn in the second.

Spain is among the title favorites, and backed up its billing with a 5-1 win over Switzerland in the round of 16.

Netherlands had to work harder for its place in the last eight, with goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar producing a player-of-the-match performance with a string of saves to keep South Africa at bay.

Her teammates were quick to acknowledge her game-saving efforts, rushing to embrace her after the final whistle.

"We felt we could have won this game and if I look back, we should have with the opportunities that we had, but we didn't take them," South Africa coach Desiree Ellis said. "If you look at their goalkeeper getting the player of the match, it tells you how well we played."

Netherlands was also aided by an error from South Africa keeper Kaylin Swart, who let Beerensteyn's weak effort squirm out of her grasp and over the line.

Just like van de Donk, Swart appeared devastated after the final whistle as teammates and staff consoled her.

"Nobody in the world has a perfect game," Ellis said. "You are going to make a mistake and unfortunately that happened, but she kept us in the game as well."

South Africa had already exceeded expectations by advancing to the knockout stage for the first time after its dramatic 3-2 win over Italy in its final group game.

But the goals from Roord in the ninth minute and Beerensteyn in the 68th ended its unlikely run.

Netherlands went close immediately before Roord's goal when Esmee Brugts swung in a curling shot that Swart had to push over the bar.

Roord struck from the resulting corner.

Sherida Spitse's cross was headed toward goal by Lieke Martens, which forced Swart into action again. But from her save, the ball looped in the air and Roord headed over the line from close range for her fourth goal of the tournament.

Van de Donk was close to extending the lead but was denied by the feet of Swart from inside the box, and Kgatlana tested Van Domselaar as South Africa showed its threat on the break.

Kgatlana went closer still when through on goal just before the halftime, but couldn't find a way past Van Domselaar. The South Africans ended the half the stronger as Kgatlana repeatedly burst beyond the defense.

Its response to going behind was even more impressive, considering it had to contend with injuries to Jermaine Seoposenwe and Bambanani Mbane in the first half.

The Netherlands lineup regained control after the restart and thought they'd doubled their lead when Martens turned and converted in the 54th. But their celebrations were cut short when it was ruled out on VAR review for offside.

South Africa offered less threat as it struggled to get possession and Netherlands scored its second after Swart's error.

Next up for Netherlands is Friday's highly anticipated match against Spain in Wellington, New Zealand.

"It's a massive game and I'm really excited about it because Spain, it's a really strong team," Beerensteyn said. "But I also know that we are a strong team, so it will be like a real final actually."

South Africa, meanwhile, exits after making a big impression on a tournament where some of the traditional favorites like Olympic champion Canada, Germany and Brazil were eliminated in the group stage.

"Very proud," Ellis said. "I think as a team we need to hold our heads very high."

Cubs claim 6th straight series win by beating MLB-leading Braves

CHICAGO (AP)—Cody Bellinger had his third straight multi-hit game, scored twice and drove in a run as the Chicago Cubs beat the MLB-leading Atlanta Braves 6-4 on Sunday for their sixth straight series win.

Dansby Swanson added a double and two RBIs against his former team, and Ian Happ drove in a pair of runs, helping the Cubs win for the 15th time in 19 games.

All-Star Justin Steele scuffled at times through 5 1/3 innings, and won his fourth straight start on a misty day at Wrigley Field. Mike Tauchman had two hits, scored two runs and threw out Ronald Acuña Jr. at the plate from right field in the fifth to limit an Atlanta rally.

Atlanta's Matt Olson hit his NL-leading 39th home run, a monster 453-foot blast to the top of Wrigley's right-center bleachers, and finished with three RBIs. Ozzie Albies had three hits, including a double. Olson and Acuña and each had two hits.

Steele (13-3) allowed four runs, three earned, and eight hits while striking out seven and walking four.

Charlie Morton (10-10) lost his fourth straight start, allowing five runs and four hits with four walks and hit batter in 4 1/3 innings.

ASTROS 9, YANKEES 7

NEW YORK (AP)—Jake Meyers hit two long three-run homers and Houston beat New York after struggling Yankees starter Carlos Rodón exited early with another injury.

Yordan Alvarez and Martín Maldonado also went deep to help Houston split the four-game series, the first meeting between the teams since the Astros swept the ALCS last October.

Houston, which holds an AL wild-card spot, remained 2 1/2 games behind first-place Texas in the AL West.

Gleyber Torres homered and reached base five times. Harrison Bader also had three hits and two RBIs for the fourth-place Yankees, who fell 4 1/2 games behind Toronto for the final AL wild card.

Rodón was removed in the third inning with left hamstring tightness. Signed to a $162 million, six-year contract in the offseason, he missed the first three-plus months of the season with a forearm strain and a bad back. The left-hander has a 7.33 ERA in 27 innings this season.

Meyers took Rodón deep in the second and put Houston ahead for good in the sixth with a 432-foot drive off Wandy Peralta (3-2). The six RBIs for Meyers matched the most by an Astros player this season.

WHITE SOX 5, GUARDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Elvis Andrus hit a two-run single after Chicago tied it in the ninth inning on consecutive throwing errors by Cleveland rookie Bryan Rocchio, one day after a nasty benches-clearing brawl between the AL Central rivals.

There was no carryover from Saturday night's melee, triggered by a fight at second base between Chicago's Tim Anderson and Cleveland's José Ramírez. There were six total ejections. Major League Baseball is still reviewing the Anderson-Ramírez altercation, along with subsequent flareups, before handing out discipline.

NATIONALS 6, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Washington's CJ Abrams and Lane Thomas hit Lyon Richardson's first two major league pitches for home runs and the last-place Nationals finished a three-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Over the last 50 seasons, the 23-year-old Richardson (0-1) is the only pitcher to allow a home run on the first two pitches of his major league career, according to Optastats.

Jake Au added a two-run single to Washington's four-run first. Abrams finished with four hits as Washington (49-63) pieced together a four-game win streak for the first time this season.

Joey Votto and TJ Friedl homered for the sliding Reds (59-55), who have lost six straight for the second time in a month and the third time this season.

PHILLIES 8, ROYALS 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryson Stott, Kyle Schwarber and Nick Castellanos homered, as Philadelphia beat Kansas City for its fifth win in seven games.

Taijuan Walker (13-4) recovered from a shaky first inning to become the first NL pitcher to reach 13 victories. Bryce Harper had two hits and drove in a run for the Phillies.

Zack Greinke (1-12) took the loss, allowing five runs and seven hits in four innings. MJ Melendez homered for Kansas City.

ORIOLES 2, METS 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Kyle Bradish and four relievers combined on a four-hitter as Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Adley Rutschman and Ryan O'Hearn each drove in a run for American League-leading Baltimore, which won for the eighth time in 10 games. Cionel Pérez (4-1) relieved an erratic Bradish and earned the win. Félix Bautista earned his 30th save in 35 chances.

AP

Chicago Cubs' Cody Bellinger hits a one-run double against the Atlanta Braves during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023.

José Quintana (0-3) allowed two runs and six hits in six-plus innings. He walked two and struck out six. New York has lost six straight since trading star pitcher Justin Verlander and two others on Tuesday to cap a deadline selloff.

BLUE JAYS 13, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP)—Davis Schneider went 4 for 5 with a homer and four RBIs, and Toronto completed a weekend sweep of Boston.

Matt Chapman had a two-run double after Red Sox center fielder Jarren Duran misplayed a fly ball that would have been the final out of a four-run third inning.

Toronto moved five games ahead of the last-place Red Sox in the AL East for the third and final American League wild-card spot.

Triston Casas homered for Boston, which has dropped seven of eight.

RAYS 10, TIGERS 6

DETROIT (AP)—Yandy Díaz homered and scored three runs as Tampa Bay scored five runs in the first two innings and took two of three from Detroit in the weekend series.

Díaz and Wander Franco each had three hits and drove in two runs and Brandon Lowe homered. Colin Poche (9-3) got the win with 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief.

Tigers starter Matt Manning (3-4) allowed eight runs in 5 2/3 innings, giving him 19 runs in his last three starts.

Díaz led off the game with a double and took third on Franco's single. After Brandon Lowe grounded into a force at second, Díaz scored on second baseman Andy Ibanez's error. Manning hit Isaac Paredes to load the bases and Josh Lowe hit a two-run single.

TWINS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Matt Wallner hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Minnesota a rain-delayed victory and a three-game sweep of Arizona.

Christian Walker put the Diamondbacks ahead 3-2 with a solo home run off Caleb Thielbar (2-1) in the top of the ninth.

Max Kepler led off the bottom half by hitting his third homer in three games. Jorge Polanco walked and Wallner connected off new Arizona closer Paul Sewald (3-2), acquired from Seattle in a trade Monday.

Minnesota opened a 4 1/2-game lead in the AL Central over Cleveland.

Dallas Keuchel, the 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner, made his Twins debut and first appearance in the majors since Sept. 2, 2022, for Texas. Against the Diamondbacks — one of three teams he pitched for last year — Keuchel gave up one run in five innings while working around eight hits.

PIRATES 4, BREWERS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Endy Rodriguez and Connor Joe homered to spoil the return of Milwaukee starter Brandon Woodruff after four months, leading Pittsburgh past the NL Central-leading Brewers.

Woodruff (1-1) was activated off the 60-day injured list (right shoulder inflammation) on Sunday and was making his first start for the Brewers since April 7. He retired the first six hitters, striking out the first five, before Rodriguez opened the third inning with his second homer. Joe opened the fourth with his eighth homer of the season to make it 2-0.

Bryan Reynolds had a pinch-hit, two-run homer, his 14th of the season, off Abner Uribe in the eighth to make it 4-0.

Milwaukee scored an unearned run in the ninth off Carmen Mlodzinski.

ROCKIES 1, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Austin Gomber pitched out of trouble for six innings against his former team and Ezequiel Tovar had a sacrifice fly to lift Colorado over St. Louis.

In a matchup of last-place clubs, the Rockies took two of three games and won a series in St. Louis for the first time since sweeping the Cardinals in June 2009.

St. Louis went 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position and stranded 15 overall. The Cardinals have lost four of six.

Gomber (9-8) gave up six hits and struck out two.

Cardinals starter Zack Thompson (2-4) allowed two hits in four innings. He struck out eight.

RANGERS 6, MARLINS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Texas slugged four homers and swept a six-game homestand with a win over Miami in a game in which they lost standout rookie third baseman Josh Jung with a fractured thumb.

Nathaniel Lowe, Marcus Semien, Ezequiel Duran and Adolis Garcia homered, and while Andrew Heaney allowed four singles in 5 2/3 shutout innings.

The six-game winning streak and four homers match Texas highs this season.

Heaney (9-6) gave up two hits in the second inning, then retired 10 consecutive batters before leaving with two runners on in the sixth. He has a career-best scoreless streak of 15 2/3 innings.

MARINERS 3, ANGELS 2, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Eugenio Suárez delivered an RBI single in the 10th inning, and Seattle completed a four-game sweep of Los Angeles.

J.P. Crawford homered on the first pitch of the game and Teoscar Hernández hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh for the Mariners (60-52), who have won five straight and 13 of 17 to move 4 1/2 games ahead of their AL West rival Angels (56-57) in the wild-card standings.

Seattle's Tayler Saucedo (3-1) pitched two scoreless innings of relief for the win. Jaime Barria (2-6) took the loss.

Seattle won it a few innings after Los Angeles' Chase Silseth and Seattle's Bryce Miller became the first pair of rookie starters to record at least 10 strikeouts apiece in the same game since 1906, according to MLB research.

ATHLETICS 8, GIANTS 6

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Nick Allen homered twice and had three RBIs, Shea Langeliers put Oakland ahead with a two-run single in the sixth inning and the Athletics rallied to beat San Francisco.

Limited to eight runs over their previous eight games, the last-place A's outlasted Giants All-Star Alex Cobb and then broke through with three runs in the sixth. Oakland earned its second consecutive victory in the annual Bay Bridge series after losing the first two matchups in San Francisco this year.

Seth Brown doubled twice and had his first triple of the season for Oakland. Zack Gelof added the first three-hit game of his career.

DODGERS 8, PADRES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer and Amed Rosario and Mookie Betts also connected for NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers to spoil Rich Hill's debut with San Diego.

Lance Lynn (8-9) had an impressive second start for the Dodgers as they defeated the Padres for the seventh time in nine games this season.

Lynn allowed a home run to Gary Sánchez in the third inning. The 36-year-old Lynn, acquired from the Chicago White Sox on July 28, held the Padres to one run and four hits while striking out six and walking two in six innings.

Over 350 participate in successful Youth Summer Sports Blitz

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Youth Summer Sports Blitz held from July 24 to 29 brought out about 350 participants total for fun and exercise at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, student-athlete and chair of the Committee on Sports & Recreation of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress, said that the event was successful.

Although it was a rainy end to July, children aged 10 to 17 years old came out to spice their summer up with track and field, soccer, volleyball, and other fun activities and games.

The morning sessions for 10- to 13-year-olds were held from 8am to 12pm, while the afternoon sessions for 14-to 17-year olds were held from 1pm to 5pm.

Iakopo said "The Youth Summer Sports Blitz was incredibly successful! We received a great variety of children, ages 10-17 from different backgrounds, schools, and villages! I am very humbled by the amount of participants, which was about 50-60 per day."

As to what the goal of the event was, Iakopo said it "was an opportunity for the youth to potentially find athletic talent, foster a spirit of camaraderie, and healthy competition among participants."

She added, "I created the Youth Summer Sports Blitz and organized engaging activities and a vibrant atmosphere with the help of our main coach, Peter Pulu, and volleyball coach, Bill Owens."

Iakopo then said, "The Youth Summer Sports Blitz left a positive impact on every person who was involved, whether it was a participant or volunteer. Inspiring a generation to prioritize their physical fitness and mental wellbeing, nurturing a healthier lifestyle, and a connected community."

The Sports Blitz sponsors are the Saipan Mayor's Office, Youth Affairs Office, TurnKey Solutions, Bridge Capital LLC., Triple J, IT&E, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., Run Saipan, Tupu Cane Juice, Paradise Dental, Saipan Nail and Spa, Hagu Real, Kensington Hotel Saipan, *Marianas Variety, Saipan Tribune,* vice speaker Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao's (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Saipan International School, Mount Carmel School, Kagman High School, Grace Christian Academy, Northern Marianas College-Nursing Club, and Northern Marianas Sports Association.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants and organizers of the Youth Summer Sports Blitz held last July 24-29 take a break for a photo at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children are seen in the track and field event of the Youth Summer Sports Blitz at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

NO. 11

From page 20

played in the first game, and then we noticed some stuff that we could do and added that to the second game." He then thanked his family and God for his award.

As for the recap of the games from the team captain of the men's team, Jireh Yobech said "It's tough because we knew nothing about the Guam team other than that they are young with a sprinkle of international-level players—we didn't want to take them for granted."

When asked how he felt about the NMI men's team finally winning the Cup, he said, "It was hard for me to hold back tears, to be honest… I'm the oldest on this team by some margin but seeing this team's joy and the fight that they went through, it is amazing".

NMI goalie Merrick Attao-Toves, Markus' brother, said that he's glad they won. "Our defense was very strong… We worked hard and trained for this," he said. It was his first time playing in front of a large crowd and said that it got him motivated. "It made me realize how much [the game] meant also to them—not just the soccer team—but also to the whole island," he added.

Luam Khen Koo, head coach for the women's team, said the tournament was a very good experience for the players. "The girls did very well. They deserve to be the champion because they trained very hard," he said.

Koo added that with Guam's loss in the first game, he knew Guam would come back and play harder in the second game, so he said that they just had to keep possession of the ball as much as they could.

For Dianne Pablo, captain for the women's team, she said the win "showcased our hard work throughout the years. It's not just us—it's the players on the bench, the coaches, and NMIFA as a whole. I'm really proud of these girls for the two wins that we had."

The 23-year-old said that the strategy for their games, since they haven't played against Guam before, was to just play at their own pace and it worked out. When asked how they felt winning the championship, she said "It feels good. It's tiring but I feel like we're very, very proud of ourselves for all the hard work that we did."

The Marianas Football Club 2023 matchup was the first since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NMI men's team has never won the Cup since its inception in 2007, while the NMI women's team has won their third Cup in a row. It was also the first time NMI hosted the Cup since 2018.

INAUGURAL

From page 20

cause by shooting 13 of his own, followed by Brendon Talania's 11 points. In the end, Blue Haus had a comfortable lead early in the fourth quarter and won by 22 points, 76-54.

The two other masters games were between Loving Hands and The Game, with a close win by Loving Hands, 85-84.

Checkpoint then blew out JTM, 80-58 in the last game of the night.

The tourney is organized by Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club. The games are from Monday to Saturday, 6pm to 10pm.

The opening ceremony last Saturday was attended by the Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, special assistant for Youth Affairs Delbert Pua, the teams, club members, friends, family, and community members.

Camacho recognized the clubs for putting the tournament together, thanked the sponsors, the teams, and players. He said he was touched by the young athletes that are joining the tournament. "This program is what I'm promoting and I humbly ask each and every one of you to support this program in our community," he said.

He said he surveyed and counted 42 basketball courts on Saipan and said he is looking for funding to get the courts solar powered. "Basketball courts and any sport benefits individuals and promotes healthy lifestyles. We need to do this. We don't want to see any of us in the hospital with diseases."

There are eight teams in the masters division, 16 teams in the open division, and four teams in the 14-and-under division.

In the masters division, the eight teams are Vision Insurance, MYMP, Legends, Lakay, Long Shot, Win Pacific, Blue Haus, and JSN.

The open division has 16 teams: Priority Care, Loving Hands, Vik Team, Bridge Capital, Winners, Rollers, Easy Rider, CheckPoint, Socho I, Socho II, CK Saints, IT&E, JTM, Home Smart, The Game, and Solid North

All four teams from Mad Flex Sports populate the 14U division.

The league thanked Camacho, Precinct 3 Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Mr. Ben Barcinas, and to the Gualo Rai neighborhood for the support.

Sponsors and donors for the league are IT&E, Hawaiian Rock Products, Numbers International, Success International, RNV-Best Deal, Boarderline, Cafe Meraki, Chang Ming, Citrine Restaurant & Cafe, Triple R Auto Shop, Royal Pacific Express, Sophia Althea Jewelry, Islander Rent A Car, Puerto Rico Bento, 9 Eleven Resto Bar, Bourbon Street Bar & Cafe, 5Ps Collection, Meals 4 U, JCE Services, LLC., Multiline Supply, 6JMS Sports Bar & Grill, Blue Haus Trading, Check Point Intl., and 100.3KWAW FM.

Blue Haus 76 – Barrios 20, Guiab 13, Talania 11, Esdrelon 9, De Dios 9, Diaz 4, Perede 4, Santos 2, Capalad 2, Culala 2.

Legends 54 – De Guzman 13, Fitial 11, Tibayan 8, Fundador 7, Tabora 6, Abuy 6, Guinto 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-29, 34-31, 58-44, 76-54.

SANTOS

From page 20

the qualifier.

"Overall, I had a great day with the players in my group, and with my golf game that day, I wouldn't have had it any other way. I was really happy that my ball-striking and my putting was on point. I was able to play shots that I pictured in my mind before hitting the ball."

He, however, admitted that last Saturday's course conditions were far from ideal.

"It was a scorching hot day and it was really hard to keep your thoughts together. The whole east course was tough because it is a narrow course and the rule was 'stroke and distance' meaning if you hit your ball in an unmarked area, you need to drop a ball and hit your next ball from the same spot."

Asked what his worst hole was, Santos said definitely it was his double bogey on hole No. 11.

"My worst hole was on the 11th, a par-3 and 215-yarder. I hit a shot that I pictured in my mind but I hit the ball so well that I flew the green by 15 yards giving myself a very tricky up and down. I ended up with a double bogey. By No. 15 I was 2-over par (birdie on hole No. 10, double bogey on 11, and bogey on 15). I was happy that I finished strong with a par on hole No. 16 and birdies on holes No. 17 and 18," he said.

Flor Jones was the lone woman golfer that took part in the qualifier and she finished with an 89.

She, however, contended that Mini Games gold medalist Zhi Min Jin is the overwhelming favorite to represent the CNMI in the Honiara Pacific Games.

"I'm sure she'll qualify eventually. I don't have any chances to make it. I'm just supporting the Pacific Games," she said, while adding that last Saturday's qualifier was "super hot and no wind at all."

Aside from the Top 3 in the men's and Jones, 12 other golfers took part in the qualifier and they are the following with their scores in parenthesis: Joe Sasamoto (77), Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho (82), Jay Muna (83), Ben Jones Jr. (84), Marco Peter (86), Louie Tilipao (87), Amier Younis (88), Peter Mendiola (90), Harry Nakamura (90), Paul Kaiptat (91), Ben Pelisamen (91), and Sixtus Aquino (96).

The next Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations-organized Pacific Games golf qualifier will be held on Aug. 19 also at the Kagman golf course. Showtime is 12pm with tee time an hour later at 1pm.

For more information, call Pacific Games national team qualifiers coordinator Kaegel Taitano at (670) 789-2102.

US loses to Sweden on penalty kicks in earliest exit ever.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Over 350 participate in successful Youth Summer Sports Blitz.

PAGE 19

No. 11 are MVPs of Marianas Football Cup

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Although Team USA—the Women's World Cup defending champions—were bounced out of Round of the 16 yesterday, the NMI women's national team celebrated its third straight win in the Marianas Football Cup, while the NMI men's national team celebrated its first victory.

Hence, one NMI U23 men's and women's national team player was announced the MVPs of the Marianas Football Cup 2023—Markus Attao-Toves and Summer Manahane—both sporting the No. 11 jersey, during the awards ceremony at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

With a large crowd still in attendance even with a late-night finish to the two-day tourney against Guam, the 17-year-old MVPs received their trophies for their accomplishments.

Manahane, a winger for the women's team who started off the momentum when she scored the first goal of the second game, said that she was not expecting the award.

"I feel good and I was surprised. It's a team sport, obviously I couldn't have done it without my team." When asked why she was surprised, she said "I feel like everyone worked hard and anyone could've gotten it but I'm happy it was me," said Manahane.

She then thanked her coaches, her team, and herself for the award.

Attao-Toves, who is also a winger, scored the second goal for the men's team in their second game. He said about winning the award, "I feel blessed. Like honestly, given an opportunity like this, I must take it. It can take me anywhere."

When asked how the tournament was for him, he said "It was great." With their games against Guam, he said "First off, we wanted to see how they

See NO. 11 on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Markus Attao-Toves, left is the men's MVP, while Summer Manahane is the women's MVP of the Marianas Football Cup 2023 in the awards ceremony after at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

Santos sizzles in first Pacific Games qualifier

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Franco Santos drew first blood in the qualifiers for the CNMI national golf team for the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

This, after the 31-year-old finance manager of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, Inc. fired an even par 72 during the first of five tryouts held last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

Santos, who was part of the bronze-medal winning team in last year's Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI, had four birdies in holes No. 2, 10, 17, and 18 and 10 pars to offset his two bogeys and a double bogey on hole No. 11. He was even-steven in both the first nine and last

Santos

holes with identical 36s.

His teammates in last year's CNMI national golf team—Zhi Yun Li and J.J. Atalig—finished second and third with scores of 75 (38-37) and 76 (38-38), respectively.

Santos said he was quite satisfied with his golf game during

See SANTOS on Page 19

Inaugural SMLEC-SMLEG Basketball tourney underway

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 went underway Sunday afternoon with a parade of teams and games at the newly refurbished Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

An hour after the opening ceremony, the league opened up with the first game between Blue Haus and Legends in the masters division.

Down by 14 points at the end of the first quarter, 15-29, Blue Haus bounced back in the second quarter as they sped up their game and made more accurate shots.

First intimidated by Legends' Kelvin Fitial's sheer size and aggressiveness with rebounds and defense, Blue Haus made up for it with points from 3-point country.

Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon contributed 9 points just from 3-pointers, while Jay-R Barrios and Junar Guiab contributed one each.

Legends' defense started to break down in the second quarter and Blue Haus took advantage with fastbreak shots at the net. The second quarter ended in favor of Blue Haus, 34-31, in a close game.

But by the end of the third quarter, Blue Haus pulled away further into the lead, 58-44, largely in part due to Barrios' pinpoint shooting. At the end of the game, he had 20 markers—the most from both teams.

Guiab helped out with the

See INAUGURAL on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, center, and Blue Haus' Junar Guiab, left, and Legends' Orly Ebuen pose for the jump ball during the opening ceremony of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 on Sunday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.